

2020 Supplemental Budget Request Child Placing Agencies Rate Increase

What is Needed?

Child Placing Agencies urgently need a rate increase to stabilize the loss of CPAs and foster care capacity they provide and ensure Child Placing Agencies are preserved as a vital part of Washington's foster care continuum.

What Legislators Can do to Help

To align the current rate with the cost of placing a youth, which includes ongoing support, \$7.7 million (\$6,047,950.68 state and \$1,705,832.24 federal dollars) per year is needed to secure a vital and foundational component of the state's foster care system through the services CPAs provide.

What are CPAs?

Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) serve as an important foundation for the state's foster care system. CPAs are private community-based agencies that contract with the state to recruit, license, train and support foster parents.

CPAs provide many services and support to foster parents and DCYF case workers with scheduling appointments and assisting with educational requirements for foster youth. CPAs recruit families in rural areas, provide care to LGBT and minority youth and work to keep kids in their communities which supports bio-family reunification.

Why do CPA's Need a Rate Increase?

- A 2018 rate study shows that Child Placing Agencies receive about **half** of what they should for each youth placed in a CPA foster home.
- It is widely acknowledged that one of the primary challenges facing Washington's foster care system is that there are not enough of the right types of foster homes needed to appropriately serve the youth in foster care.
- In the past 10 years, the number of CPAs has **dropped from 135 to approximately 50**. In addition to the losses, there is a lost opportunity for recruitment and retention of foster families because of the inability of CPAs to continue to do the work for the low rate they receive.

Examples

- DCYF's predecessor agency, Children's Administration, shared in 2017 that there were too few foster homes in the state. A group of CPAs were able to obtain outside funding and with that funding have added 474 foster care homes to date. Unfortunately, that funding has ended for most agencies.
- Data recently shared by DCYF shows that **from 2018 to 2019, CPAs were able to license 18% fewer foster care families.**

Hotel Stays

Hotel stays for youths in the state's care have dramatically increased tenfold in the past 4 years because of a lack of the types of foster homes needed to adequately serve the youth in foster care. CPAs are an important part of the solution to this crisis by sharing their placement resources and partnering with DCYF to creatively serve these children and youth. CPAs also provide valuable emergent and after-hours placement resources; without the continued availability of those resources, the hotel stays crisis has the potential to worsen.

For Additional Information Contact

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