

Caregiver Supports Project

Project Update Presentation

October 2023

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Welcome

- **Caregiver Supports Project:** Implement a continuum of placement resources that enable safe, stable, and supported placements for children and youth in foster care.
- Part of the [Thriving Families campaign](#).
- Today's presentation
 - Phase 1 impacts
 - Exceptional Cost Plans (ECPs) changes
 - Transition for kids already in care



Caregiver Supports Model

Project Website: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting/caregiver-supports-project>

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5	LEVEL 6	LEVEL 7
New Support Levels	Basic Maintenance Foster Care	Support Needs: Adolescent Low Needs	Support Needs: Chronic Physical Health	Support Needs: Developmental Disability	Support Needs: Developmental Disability & Chronic Physical Health	Support Needs: Moderate Mental Health	Support Needs: Complex Mental Health
Placement Supports for Licensed and Unlicensed Caregivers – includes Case Aides for levels 3-7							
Rates for Caregiver Support Levels Based on Age (Licensed Caregivers) – <i>Level Rates include Basic</i>							
Age: 0-5	\$722	N/A	\$1,407	\$1,749.50	\$2,092	\$2,434.50	\$2,777
Age: 6-11	\$846	N/A	\$1,531	\$1,873.50	\$2,216	\$2,558.50	\$2,901
Age: 12+	\$860	\$1,202.50	\$1,545	\$1,887.50	\$2,230	\$2,572.50	\$2,915

Caregiver Supports Project Phase 1 Impacts

Starts January 1, 2024

- The current rate assessment process with levels 1-4 will stop January 1, 2024
 - Children and youth currently in care with a level 1-4 will have a new level 1-7 assessed
- The new caregiver support level determination process with levels 1-7 will start January 1, 2024
 - New tool to identify support needs
 - Health history information from RDA
- New foster care reimbursement rates for licensed caregivers will go into effective January 1, 2024
 - First payments with the new rates will be sent in February 2024



Exceptional Cost Plans (ECPs) Changes

- DCYF will implement a standardized process for approving ECPs
 - Committee comprised of regional representatives, headquarter representatives, and subject matter experts on special needs programs such as DDA
 - Creates consistency statewide
 - Allows DCYF to identify trends where more supports may be needed for children and youth with certain characteristics

Transition for Children and Youth Currently in Care

- Starting January 1, 2024, children and youth in licensed homes that are currently in care must have a level 1-7 entered in FamLink so that the new foster care reimbursement rates are generated
- DCYF will send out notifications of the new level 1-7 in November or December 2023 so licensed caregivers know the new level and rate that will go into effect January 1, 2024
- Regular 6 month assessments will stop for the remainder of 2023 and start again in January 2024
- Rate assessments for levels 1-4 will still be completed for new placements in 2023 so the correct payments can be made for the remainder of the year
 - If there are significant changes in a child or youth's situation, caregivers may request an updated rate assessment and these can still be completed for levels 1-4 through the end of the year



Upcoming Communications

- Visit the [DCYF Rules Filing](#) page for information about WAC changes (see Foster Care Rate Assessment)
- Check out the project website for up-to-date information:
<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-parenting/caregiver-supports-project>
- Pre-recorded project update webinars will be posted on the Caregiver Supports Project website on the last Thursday of each month
 - November 30th
 - Topics TBD
 - December 28th
 - Topics TBD



Tribal Engagement

- Tribes have the option to do their own rate assessments on tribally dependent children (Phase 1) and to provide placement supports to their own members instead of using a contracted provider in their catchment area (Phase 2)
- DCYF will engage in a formal consultation on Phase 1 with Tribes to determine project impacts and engage Tribes in project implementation
 - Roundtables on Nov. 14, 2023 from 2 - 4 p.m. and Nov. 28, 2023 from 1 - 3 p.m.
 - Consultation on Dec. 12, 2023 from 2 - 4 p.m
 - For more information about the Tribal Consultation, email the Office of Tribal Relations at tribalrelations@dcyf.wa.gov.
- If you would like to meet with DCYF to discuss the Caregiver Supports Project and impacts to your Tribe, email Mandy Morlin at mandy.morlin@dcyf.wa.gov
- View the Caregiver Supports Project Presentation for Tribes on the [project website](#)

Thank you!

Please send all questions and comments to: DCYF.CaregiverSupports@dcyf.wa.gov

