



Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$14,784,000 (\$14,267,000 General Fund-State) and 5.0 full time equivalents (FTE) in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget to implement quality improvement efforts for Combined In-Home Services (CIHS), including the expansion of Family Preservation Services to include the Evidenced Based Practice of Motivational Interviewing and increased access to concrete goods; and the implementation of a new evidence-based program, Positive Indian Parenting (PIP). This proposal will result in greater service availability and quality for CIHS and increased access to culturally responsive services for a population with disproportionate representation in the child welfare system.

Program Recommendation Summary

010 - Children and Families Services

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$13,976,000 (\$13,644,000 General Fund-State) and 2.0 full time equivalents (FTE) in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget to implement quality improvement efforts for Combined In-Home Services (CIHS), including the expansion of Family Preservation Services to include the Evidenced Based Practice of Motivational Interviewing and increased access to concrete goods; and the implementation of a new evidence-based program, Positive Indian Parenting (PIP). This proposal will result in greater service availability and quality for CIHS and increased access to culturally responsive services for a population with disproportionate representation in the child welfare system.

090 - Program Support

DCYF requests \$808,000 (\$623,000 General Fund- State) and 3.0 full time equivalents of FA3s (FTE) in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget under program support.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2026	2027	2025-27	2028	2029	2027-29
Staffing						
FTEs	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 1	\$6,929,000	\$6,715,000	\$13,644,000	\$6,919,000	\$6,919,000	\$13,838,000
Fund 001 - A	\$66,000	\$266,000	\$332,000	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$124,000
Fund 001 - A	\$103,000	\$82,000	\$185,000	\$97,000	\$97,000	\$194,000
Fund 001 - 1	\$312,000	\$311,000	\$623,000	\$296,000	\$296,000	\$592,000
Total Expenditures	\$7,410,000	\$7,374,000	\$14,784,000	\$7,374,000	\$7,374,000	\$14,748,000
Revenue						
001 - 0393	\$66,000	\$266,000	\$332,000	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$124,000
001 - 0393	\$103,000	\$82,000	\$185,000	\$97,000	\$97,000	\$194,000
Total Revenue	\$169,000	\$348,000	\$517,000	\$159,000	\$159,000	\$318,000

Decision Package Description

All families should have equitable access to quality and culturally responsive services anywhere they reside within Washington State. This funding request implements cost modeling recommendations to improve the quality of services provided and additionally expand the pool of providers to increase access to child welfare involved families no matter where they reside. Furthermore, our service array needs to be fundamentally more culturally responsive and meet the unique, specific, cultural needs of our American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) families. Thus, we are proposing the implementation of Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) as a culturally specific service contract. This service line will include the need for facilitator training, QA/CQI and Fiscal Analyst support, and direct program implementation funding to include concrete goods and staffing costs.

Combined In Home Services

The clients being served by this proposal are children, youth, and families who receive Combined In-Home Services (CIHS). These services are crucial for both the prevention of out-of-home placement and the facilitation of successful family reunification. CIHS services include but are

not limited to; Incredible Years (IY), Promoting First Relationships (PFR), SafeCare, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Family Functional Therapy (FFT), Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), Crisis Family Intervention (CFI), Intensive Family Preservation Services / Homebuilders, and Family Preservation Services (FPS). For information about how many children, youth, and families received CIHS, [see the 2023 Legislative Report](#).

Motivational Interviewing

This proposal will strengthen DCYF's infrastructure to ensure that expanded services are high-quality and culturally responsive. FPS will be expanded to include Motivational Interviewing (MI) and to allow an extended duration of services, up to six months, when needed. MI is a strength-based, evidence-based communication method that professionals can use to support families involved in the child welfare system. Research ([Motivational-Interviewing-Guide_Chapin-Hall-and-PCG.pdf\(chapinhall.org\)](#)) has demonstrated that MI can improve outcomes when used in conjunction with other evidence-based practices and incorporated into client-provider interactions whenever client ambivalence is evident. To incorporate MI into FPS, providers will attend 20 hours of training and ongoing coaching and coding sessions to achieve competency initially after training and then annually thereafter. This request is for the ongoing cost of initial training, ongoing coaching, and coding and administrative contracted support. MI is an approved Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) on the Family First Preventative Services Act (FFPSA) Clearing House, which will make all qualifying cases IV-E reimbursable. This will create an opportunity to receive IV-E reimbursement in the future once MI is being delivered to ?fidelity?. However, this will be dependent, in part, on the [Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System \(CCWIS\)](#) project because avenues for reimbursement require technology advancements and ongoing IT support.

Concrete Goods and Transportation Costs

To engage families in CIHS and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect of children in the home, access to concrete goods (e.g. material necessities like groceries and diapers along with other crucial services) is essential for family well-being. Providers and families have referred to the accessibility of these funds as invaluable as it allows them to provide immediate support to meet basic needs. Child welfare families who receive services with concrete goods are 17% less likely to experience subsequent child maltreatment than families who receive services without concrete goods (Rostad, 2018). These funds, in part, may also be used by providers to help engage families. When families have an emergent need for concrete goods, providers will ensure immediate access, including delivery of goods to families. Therefore, this request includes funding to reimburse providers for transportation costs, including mileage reimbursement and ancillary travel costs they may incur.

Culturally Responsive Consultation

To implement cultural adaptations to combined in-home services, when possible, a culturally responsive consultation and training contract will create a resource for contractors to gain knowledge and skills to adapt their curriculums to the unique cultural needs of the families they serve.

Positive Indian Parenting:

The purpose of this proposal is to reduce the number of America Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children who are placed into out-of-home care, and to increase the number of providers providing culturally specific prevention services to meet the specific cultural needs of AI/AN families. AI/AN children continue to be removed at an alarming rate and are significantly overrepresented in out-of-home care in Washington State. From 2014 to 2021, data on Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality Ratios for child welfare removals show that AI/AN children were placed in out-of-home care at a rate 2.63 times higher than what we would expect based on their representation in the general population.

To address these needs, DCYF proposes implementing PIP as a culturally specific service contract to families identifying as AI/AN. DCYF defines a culturally specific service as a service that provides “*proactive learning and engagement regarding the distinct cultural practices of others, referencing specific elements that could be recognized as particular to **their** culture.*” Positive Indian Parenting is an 8-10 week parent education program developed by the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). PIP also addresses the historic impact of boarding schools, intergenerational trauma, grief, and the forced assimilation of parenting practices.

Eligible families will include those who identify as AI/AN with children aged 0-18 years. Clients will qualify for this service if they are involved with DCYF child welfare (ie. Family Reconciliation Services (FRS), CFWS, and Family Voluntary Services). Eligibility may also be determined by Federally Recognized Tribes and Indian Child Welfare departments. According to the most recent ICW Tribal Inquiry Summary there are a reported 558 open cases which “active efforts” under ICWA and WICWA would apply. This would include cases with children who are members of a federally recognized tribe, eligible for tribal membership, determined to be tribal descendants or have been labeled as “reason to know” or “unknown”. All cases where ICWA would apply would be eligible for PIP services.

Service Delivery for the PIP program will consist of culturally specific parent education provided in a weekly group format where child care and

a meal will be provided for families.

PIP Training

In the past year, 12 Washington State Tribes have received train-the-trainer certification in PIP through trainings hosted by DCYF in partnership with NICWA. The agency anticipates hosting an additional three PIP trainings in calendar years 2024 and 2025. Subsequently, several organizations, including Tribes, will be prepared to initiate a PIP contract should PIP be adopted as a service line.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:

This is a request to expand CIHS and implement PIP. This is a request to expand CIHS and implement PIP.

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$14,784,000 (\$14,267,000 General Fund-State) in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget.

Combined In Home Services: CIHS requests \$7,583,000 (\$7,351,000 GF-S and 1 FTEs) in the 2025-27 biennium.

Concrete Goods and Transportation Costs: \$3,501,000 for the 2025-27 biennium and \$1,751,000 annually thereafter. It is estimated an additional 250 in FPS under CIHS families will receive concrete goods support.

1. Concrete goods; ($\$500 * 12 * 250.15 \text{ families} = \$1,500,900/\text{year}$).
2. Support Bridger; Monthly per cap cost $\$3 * 6,500 \text{ cases} * 12 = \$234,000/\text{year}$
3. Mileage reimbursement= Expected service episodes=6,240, 7.54% of Families within 50-75 miles ($7.54\% * 6,240 = 471 \text{ cases}$), Excess mileage to and from ($25 * 471 * 0.67 = 16,000/\text{year}$

Culturally Responsive Consultation: \$85,000 per fiscal year.

The current rate for this service is \$85K per year based on existing contracts.

Motivational Interviewing: \$3,638,000 in 2025-27 biennium and \$1,819,000 annually thereafter.

The funding requested is based on a 10% (250) increment to the 2,502 average number of families based on 2022-2023 biennium average of cases served.

1. **FPS Provider Training:** \$524,000 in 2025-27 biennium and \$262,00 annually thereafter.

FPS providers will attend 20 hours of training and ongoing coaching and coding sessions to achieve competency initially after training and then annually thereafter. Administrative support based on current rate \$91,674/year and provider training \$170,300/year.

2. **FPS Expansion:** \$677,000 in 2025-27 biennium and \$339,000 annually thereafter.

DCYF assumes a 10% increase in families served based on the inclusion of MI in FPS service delivery. FPS is one of the most accessed and available combined in-home services. Therefore, as families begin experiencing improved outcomes with the inclusion of MI, which is evidence-based, it is assumed more families will access this service. This is at an increment of 10 percent of the 2024 unique number of families to 66 served under FPS at a cost of \$425.34 per family per month ($66 * 425.34 * 12 = \$338,551/\text{year}$).

3. **Increased Service Retention:** \$943,000 in 2025-27 biennium and \$472,000 annually thereafter.

With the inclusion of MI in the FPS service delivery, the FPS service duration for families is extended up to six months, resulting in longer per family engagement. It is expected a 10 percent increment of the 2024 unique number of families ($2,501.5 + 250.15 (10\%)$), 2,751.65 served under FPS will need increased service retention at an increased cost of \$155.81 per family, ($2,751.65 * 155.81 * 10\% = \$471,725.0/\text{year}$)

4. **Additional 2.5hrs MI session:** \$1,130,000 in 2025-27 biennium and \$565,000 annually thereafter.

DCYF assumes FPS sessions will require an additional 2.5 hours per session with the introduction of MI (2.5hrs*82.13/hour*2,751.65 families=\$564,982.54).

5. MI Fidelity: \$364,000 in 2025-27 biennium and \$182,000 annually thereafter.

The implementation of MI to fidelity increases the scope of work required of therapist's supervisors. DCYF requests funding to account for the increase in workload, given it will be a requirement of the contract, at an increased rate from \$86.09 to \$87.46 per hour (2,080.13hours*\$87.46/hr=\$181,928) annually.

Positive Indian Parenting: PIP requests \$6,473,000 (\$6,361,000 GF-S and 1 FTEs) in the 2025-27 biennium.

Concrete Goods: PIP families (\$500*1,300 families=\$650,000/year)

Session Costs: There shall be parental training for each family member/guardian. Training of 1,300 families at 186 groups for 8 sessions at a training cost of \$730 per session (8*186*730=\$1,086,209/year)

Participant Cost: Training of providers for 8 sessions at a training cost of \$126.54 per person (1,300*8*126.54=\$1,315,995.76/year).

Parental Training Sessions and Consultative Contract: This is an 8–10-week parent education program developed by NICWA. Service Delivery for PIP will consist of culturally specific parent education provided in a weekly group format where childcare and a meal will be provided for families. Training cost for facilitators (19 facilitators* 4days/person training*8 sessions/person * 64.48 Facilitator FTE cost/hr)=\$39,203.84/year.

Additionally, there shall be \$8,800 annually for a consultative consultant based on the current rate.

Workforce Assumptions:

Combine In House Services Staffing:

QA/CQI is essential for consistently improving services and support for children, youth and families. DCYF estimates additional QA/CQI components that will require 1.0 QA/CQI FTE/equivalent to every \$3.3-3.8M in program dollars, per the [OIAA report](#). Total cost for 2025-27 biennium amounts to \$273,808 and \$133,304 annually after that.

Positive Indian Parenting Staffing:

One MA5 FTE in PPS to develop and support Quality Assurance /Continuous Quality Improvement (QA/CQI), data collection and monitoring. Total cost for 2025-27 biennium amounts to \$273,808 and \$133,304 annually after that.

Program Support Staffing:

Three Fiscal Analyst 3 (FA3) to support fiscal invoicing and payment/data reconciliation. Total cost for 2025-27 biennium amounts to \$728,000 and \$353,000 annually after that.

In addition to salaries and benefits, workforce assumptions include:

- Agency Standard Goods and Services - \$1,800 per FTE per FY
- Agency Standard Travel - \$2,400 per FTE per FY
- One-time Equipment - \$7,200 per FTE
- 18.43% Admin Support Rate - \$93,000 per FY

Historical Funding:

FY2026

- FTE = 5 FTEs
- Total Funds = \$12,218,000

FY2027

- FTE = 5 FTEs
- Total Funds = \$= \$12,218,000

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

The proposal for CIHS and PIP aligns with the following DCYF Strategic Priorities:

1. Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity and safely reduce the number/rate of children and youth in out-of-home care
 - The development of the Positive Indian Parenting service line allows for an increase in culturally specific services thereby reducing the number of America Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children who are placed into out-of-home care and increases the number of providers providing culturally specific prevention services to meet the specific cultural needs of AI/AN families.
 - Enhanced quality and access of CIHS through rate increases and MI training
 - Providing Positive Indian Parenting will assist with familial stability and functioning in the AI/AN community
2. Improve quality and availability of provider services
 - MI training and rate increases for CIHS
 - Increase of quality culturally relevant services through PIP

Performance Outcomes:

Combined In Home Services:

Success will be measured through (1) an increase of CIHS service providers in rural and BIPOC communities, (2) an increase of families served who reside in areas where services were not previously available locally, and (3) an increase in families who receive FPS services.

Positive Indian Parenting:

Success will be measured through the following outcome goals for families 1) reduction in the number of AI/AN children who are placed into out-of-home care, 2) improved family strengths and resiliency for families who are served through PIP, and 3) reduction in the number of screened-in intakes among AI/AN families.

Success will also be measured through the following DCYF system wide goals 1) Increase in the number of providers providing culturally specific prevention services, 2) increase in service completion rate for AI/AN families, and 3) increase in number of providers available in tribal geographic areas.

Equity Impacts

Community Outreach and Engagement:

CIHS- A workgroup that included internal and external stakeholders developed recommendations that informed the enhancement of Family Preservation Services (FPS). Combined In-Home Service providers and tribal representatives were integral to the development of the recommendations. Workgroup participants shared consensus, via a vote, that FPS should be enhanced by adding Motivational Interviewing (MI) and offering an extended duration of service, when needed. Because of this DCYF anticipates full support of the new requirements and additional funds for implementation.

Positive Indian Parenting- DCYF has had ongoing consultation with Tribal Nations across Washington State regarding the desire and need for Positive Indian Parenting as an accessible culturally specific service line. The agency has also engaged in consultation with NICWA and have begun preliminary conversations on potential fidelity monitoring, consultation and continued training.

Disproportional Impact Considerations:

CIHS- DCYF expects to see an increase in service engagement from AI/AN/Black and African American families due to the ability to include cultural adaptations paired with motivational interviewing which will directly reduce disproportionality. Motivational interviewing works well with

culturally diverse populations; it elicits the client's goals in a collaborative and client-centered approach to pursue behavior change. Utilizing MI with the ability to include cultural adaptations will increase service engagement and therefore reduce disproportionality because diverse families will engage quicker, complete services timely and then exit the child welfare system.

Positive Indian Parenting- This request is aimed to address disproportionality experienced by the AI/AN communities as it pertains to child removal, child maltreatment numbers and screened-in intakes. Although this request excludes other populations who are also experiencing disproportionality in the child welfare system, it is taking a critical first step in addressing the disproportionality experienced by AI/AN families in Washington State.

Target Communities and Populations:

Families will have access to Combined In-Home Services regardless of where in the state they reside. Families will receive a more holistic service with a less restrictive timeline; this will allow providers to adapt the service to better meet the needs of each family's cultural and unique needs. DCYF will recruit additional providers from the BIPOC community to serve families who will benefit from a shared cultural understanding.

In addition, granting funds to increase the amount of concrete goods available to families will benefit communities and populations who have historically been excluded by governmental decisions. Loss of income, material hardship, and housing instability are among the most reliable predictors of child welfare systems involvement (Conrad-Hiebner & Byram, 2020). It's crucial to acknowledge the disproportionate impact of economic hardship on Black, Indigenous, and Latinx families, who are 1.9 to 2.2 times more likely than White families to fall below the self-sufficiency threshold. This disparity increases their vulnerability to both substantiated and unsubstantiated neglect allegations and directly contributes to their overrepresentation in the child welfare system.

Lastly, there are significant limitations to access and availability of culturally responsive and specific services in DCYF's service array (e.g., Positive Indian Parenting and similar services) leaving AI/AN families without equitable access to culturally appropriate services. By expanding the service array to include Positive Indian Parenting, the agency will be building a more equitable system that better supports AI/AN families and aids in the reduction of Native children in out-of-home placement.

Community Inputs and Incorporation:

CIHS- The rate modeling process involved engaging contracted service providers. There were three statewide meetings held with contracted providers throughout the rate modeling process. Contracted service providers recommendations were considered and incorporated, when possible.

Positive Indian Parenting- Community partners provided feedback regarding barriers to hiring staff and ensuring services were available in rural settings. To incorporate this input, DCYF is requesting implementation of PIP, which will allow for community members with lived experience to offer culturally responsive and specific services within both rural and urban tribal communities without the constraints of educational and licensing requirements.

Other Collateral Connections

HEAL Act Agencies Supplemental Questions

Not Applicable

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not Applicable

State Workforce Impacts:

Not Applicable

Intergovernmental:

Through DCYF's continued collaboration and consultation with tribal communities, tribal communities are requesting more culturally responsive and specific services for their people. DCYF anticipates tribal communities' support in the implementation of culturally responsive and specific services in DCYF's service array. Washington State Supreme Court and DCYF have given their support for providing culturally appropriate services to Native Families. The agency does not anticipate opposition or impacts to other state agencies.

Stakeholder Impacts:

Non-governmental stakeholders impacted by this proposal are contracted service providers, Recognized American Indian Organizations, and other native service organizations and partners. DCYF included stakeholders throughout the process of developing recommendations to enhance Family Preservation Services update CIHS rate modeling, and the implementation proposal for PIP. Because of this DCYF anticipates full support of the new requirements and additional funds for implementation. Non-governmental stakeholders impacted by this proposal are contracted service providers, Recognized American Indian Organizations, and other native service organizations and partners. DCYF included stakeholders throughout the process of developing recommendations to enhance Family Preservation Services update CIHS rate modeling, and the implementation proposal for PIP. Because of this DCYF anticipates full support of the new requirements and additional funds for implementation.

State Facilities Impacts:

Not Applicable

Changes from Current Law:

Not Applicable

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

Not Applicable

Governor's Salmon Strategy:

Not Applicable

IT Addendum

Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

No

Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2026	2027	2025-27	2028	2029	2027-29
Obj. A	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$320,000	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$320,000
Obj. B	\$58,000	\$58,000	\$116,000	\$58,000	\$58,000	\$116,000
Obj. C	\$4,354,000	\$4,354,000	\$8,708,000	\$4,354,000	\$4,354,000	\$8,708,000
Obj. E	\$2,155,000	\$2,155,000	\$4,310,000	\$2,155,000	\$2,155,000	\$4,310,000
Obj. G	\$254,000	\$254,000	\$508,000	\$254,000	\$254,000	\$508,000
Obj. J	\$14,000	\$0	\$14,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. A	\$208,000	\$208,000	\$416,000	\$208,000	\$208,000	\$416,000
Obj. B	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$160,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$160,000
Obj. E	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
Obj. G	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$14,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$14,000
Obj. J	\$22,000	\$0	\$22,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. T	\$93,000	\$93,000	\$186,000	\$93,000	\$93,000	\$186,000

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