Combined In-Home Service (CIHS) are tailored services that increase a parent’s ability to safely parent their child. An average of 2,800 families receive CIHS every year. The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) has identified significant gaps in the CIHS service line due to an inadequate rate structure. This program is crucial for both the prevention of out-of-home placement and the facilitation of successful family reunification, contributing to widespread service inadequacy. In many parts of the state, families are forced to delay or forego these pivotal services due to limited supply, preventing them from using this powerful tool to learn to safely parent their children. Request for a rate increase in CIHS ($8.4 million for the second half of the 2021-23 biennium, $16.8 million in the next biennium).

INCREASING CIHS RATES WILL:

- Stabilize services and increase service capacity and availability by allowing providers to offer a living wage.
- Improve service in regions where a high number of cases apply Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).
- Deliver resources to families to prevent out-of-home placement and support reunification.
- Reduce racial disproportionality in service provision.

HOW COMBINED IN-HOME SERVICES PREVENT OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT AND SUPPORT REUNIFICATION

CHILD IS IN HOME
Preventing Out-of-Home Placement

- Safety assessment indicates a threat to the child’s safety.
- The permanency plan is for the child to remain in home.
- CFWS caseworker develops a safety plan with CIHS to facilitate reunification.
- CIHS are deployed to help the family safely parent the child and keep the family together.

CHILD IS OUT OF HOME
Supporting Family Reunification

- Safety assessment indicates a threat to the child’s safety.
- The permanency plan is for the child to return home.
- CFWS caseworker develops a safety plan with CIHS to facilitate reunification.
- CIHS are deployed to facilitate successful family reunification.

If CIHS service does not exist or is not reliable in community, it cannot be put into the caseworker’s plan.

Disruptions in this service line can lead to delayed or deterred reunification safety plan with CIHS to facilitate reunification.

Combined In-Home Services:
www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-welfare-providers/contracted-services/combined-in-home-services

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov).

DCYF PUBLICATION GC_0027 (01-2022)