

# Introducing Professional Therapeutic Foster Care

Professional Therapeutic Foster Care (PTFC) is being developed for young people with complex mental and behavioral health needs who have experienced placement instability.

PTFC aims to partner with Child Placing Agencies (CPA) to provide these young people a foster home with a Professional Therapeutic Parent. These specialized foster caregivers will be certified by participating CPAs, highly trained, culturally responsive, trauma-informed, LGBTQIA+ affirming, and believe in the power of connection and belonging.



## WHO DOES THIS PROGRAM IMPACT?

### Youth in care and their families

- **Young people ages 12 to 17** who are in one of the following circumstances:
  - They have a desire for therapeutic supports
  - Are exiting institutional or congregate care/ Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTF)/ Children's Long-term Inpatient Program (CLIP) settings (these facilities prevent young people from staying beyond clinical necessity)
  - Are in a placement exception or night-to-night stay for five days or more
- **And:**
  - Have no relative or suitable other person available
  - Are Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) eligible
  - Demonstrate a need for therapeutic services

### Foster Parents interested in the PTFC certification

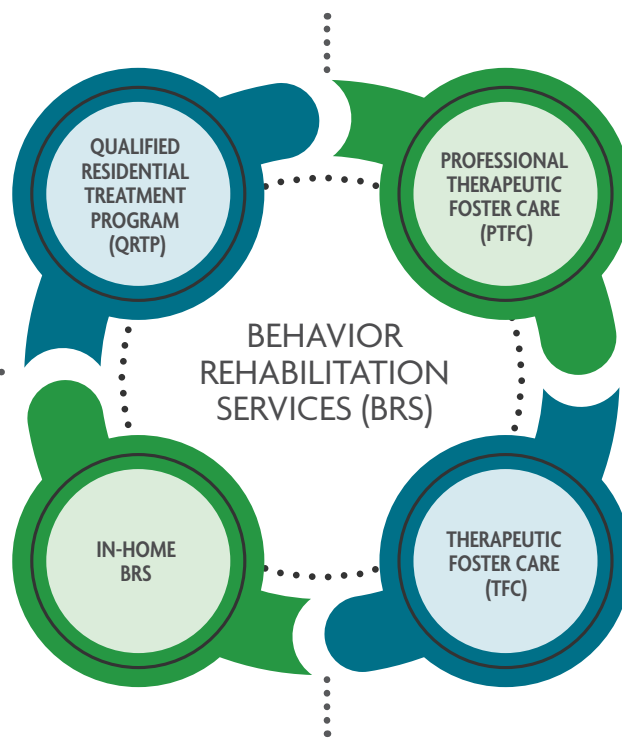
- PTFC parents will receive a guaranteed monthly payment and a higher level of professional development and coaching support
- PTFC parents will receive increased therapeutic supports from CPAs

### Child Placing Agency Staff

- PTFC requires additional oversight of CPA staff for families holding the contract



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**



## WHAT'S REQUIRED:

### Child Placing Agency

- CPAs who hold PTFC contract can apply between December and January 2025.

### Foster Parent:

- Must have a general foster care license, meeting WAC 110-148 series
- Must meet the qualifications outlined in the contract
- PTFC Specific WACs 110-148-1366, 110-148-1367, 110-148-1368
- PTFC parents can only devote time and attention/therapeutic time and intervention to one child at a time with the exception of siblings
- Higher support is needed from foster parents to meet a child's therapeutic needs

## IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

- The program will currently serve youth ages 12 to 17 but will expand in the future.
- Young people and PTFC families will have opportunities to connect to the child's families of choice or origin and engage in their chosen activities and community.
- Young people and families will have access to therapeutic services and support, independent living skills, coaching and mentoring, and thoughtful transitions.

For more information visit <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/practice-improvement/ds-settlement/system-improvements>

## CONTACT:

### Ayn Witman

Professional Therapeutic Foster Care Program Manager

[ayn.witman@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:ayn.witman@dcyf.wa.gov)

DCYF does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, age, sexual orientation or gender identity, veteran or military status, status as a breastfeeding mother, and the presence of any physical, sensory, or mental disability or use of a dog guide or service animal. If you would like free copies of this publication in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations at 1-800-723-4831 or email [communications@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:communications@dcyf.wa.gov).