



Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is submitting a placeholder request for additional funding in the 2022 Supplemental Budget to implement a rate increase for Combined In-Home Services (CIHS) providers to improve provider capacity and service availability.

Program Recommendation Summary

010 - Children and Families Services

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is submitting a placeholder request for additional funding in the 2022 Supplemental Budget to implement a rate increase for Combined In-Home Services (CIHS) providers to improve provider capacity and service availability.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2022	2023	2021-23	2024	2025	2023-25
Staffing						
FTEs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Decision Package Description

Key services used by DCYF for preventing the need for out-of-home placement and supporting timely reunification are: Family Preservation, as authorized and described under RCW 74.14C.042, Intensive Family Preservation services, as authorized and described under RCW 74.14C.040, Crisis Family Intervention (CFI), and Evidenced Based Practices (EBPs) including Functional Family Therapy (FFT), SafeCare, Incredible Years (IY), Promoting First Relationships (PFR), Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Triple P (Positive Parenting Program). These services are also referred to as Combined In-Home Services (CIHS). CIHS delivers tailored services that increase a parent’s ability to safely parent their child.

DCYF has seen a reduction in the number of CIHS contractors and a reduction in the service capacity of active CIHS Contractors. This has created increasing delays in connecting parents with necessary services. In addition to challenges meeting the current need for services, without expanding capacity, DCYF will not be able to meet the increased service demand expected with the implementation of DCYF’s Family’s First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). The reduction in contractors and service capacity is a direct result of outdated service rates that were set over 15 years ago and has remained the same rate. Increasing rates will help to expand and stabilize the provider workforce and capacity.

There are currently 44 contracted CIHS providers across the state with an additional 23 under Family Impact Network (FIN) in Regions 1 and 2, totaling 67. Referral trends for these services show an average of 2,800 families being served a year. The 2018 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) statewide assessment and feedback collected during CFSR interviews with stakeholders showed that the current array of services is not adequately addressing the needs of children and families. Stakeholders have stated there are waiting lists and a limited number of providers offering evidence-based programs. In 2020, DCYF started to see providers end their contracts due to the inability to compete with other agencies wages and the rising cost of living.

Hard to serve rural areas in Region 1 and other areas of the state have been significantly impacted by the current reimbursement rates, making services difficult to access due to low provider counts and limited capacity. This included the only provider in Okanogan County who ended their contract due to the contract not providing sufficient income to support the programs. Region 5 (Pierce County) was impacted by three providers not renewing their contract and a large agency laid off most of its staff due to funding challenges, resulting in a decrease of 60% in IY and 25% in FPS. Region 3 and 4 have seen a 40% reduction in provider capacity in the past year with their largest contracted agency ending their contract. These impacts have resulted in frequent zero availability for most of the CIHS in the highest demand areas of the state.

Limited provider capacity and lack of service availability is increasingly destabilizing DCYF's ability to timely meet the needs of families involved in the child welfare system. DCYF's FFPSA plan includes expanding access to CIHS, indicating this problem will increase with its implementation and making now the opportune time to address it.

In addition, DCYF must provide culturally appropriate services to the child and family when we have reason to know that a child may be an Indian child. However, there are "service deserts" in some rural areas of the state where there are high caseloads in which the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) applies. Additionally, DCYF has a need to train and provide resources to service providers to provide services that are culturally appropriate in cases where ICWA applies. Therefore, this placeholder also requests funding to equip CHIS providers to provide services that are culturally appropriate in these cases.

DCYF is undergoing a cost study analysis to assist with conducting statistically valid research to identify and understand the service costs associated with delivering high-quality CIHS across Washington State.

The preliminary findings of the cost study show that CIHS is underfunded, both the hourly rate and unfunded contract requirements. The cost study is anticipated to be finalized by October 2021, reflecting a competitive hourly rate and full compensation for contract requirements.

DCYF and CIHS Contractors believe this will increase provider capacity and service availability. DCYF proposes a rate increase for CIHS providers.

Increasing the CIHS rates will support increased capacity and service availability by allowing contracted service providers to offer a living wage to practitioners delivering the services to families. This increase will build capacity and increase service availability to families, allowing providers to hire more practitioners and compete with offers elsewhere in their communities. This increase will allow for the potential of higher wages and to offset overhead costs such as Labor and Industries rates, paid time off, and insurance with an anticipated cascading affect to finding more applicants and an increase in job satisfaction for retention.

Assumptions and Calculations

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

This is a placeholder request, pending the results of the CIHS cost study.

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

This is a placeholder request, pending the results of the CIHS cost study.

Workforce Assumptions:

This request does not include additional FTEs.

How is your proposal impacting equity in the state?

The most culturally diverse areas of the state have been impacted by provider capacity loss and lack of service availability. The difficulty in hiring, retaining, and providing a wage competitive as what other entities can offer to contracted providers has been challenging. A rate increase will directly impact capacity resulting in increases to our CIHS availability.

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

This package directly relates to Results WA Goal 5: Efficient, Effective & Accountable Government.

Performance Outcomes:

This is a placeholder request.

Other Collateral Connections

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not applicable.

State Workforce Impacts:

Not applicable.

Intergovernmental:

This is placeholder request.

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

This is placeholder request.

Stakeholder Response:

This is placeholder request.

Changes from Current Law:

This is placeholder request.

State Facilities Impacts:

Not applicable.

Reference Documents

CEUReport Final.pdf
CW_CEU_SS_July_2021.pdf

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
	2022	2023	2021-23	2024	2025	2023-25
Obj. N	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Agency Contact Information

Renee Martine-Tebow
(360) 688-0134
renee.martine-tebow@dcyf.wa.gov