

Division of Safety and Permanence

DSP Informational Memo Series 2026-31i

August 28, 2026

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons



From: John Elliott
Administrator

Re: 2027 Maximum Daily Rates for Group Homes, Residential Care Centers, and Child Placing Agencies

PURPOSE

This memo establishes the 2027 maximum daily rates for residential care centers (RCCs), group homes (GHs), and child placing agencies (CPAs) and outlines the procedure for providers to determine individual rates.

BACKGROUND

Wisconsin Stat. § 49.343 requires the department to establish per client daily rates for GHs and RCCs, as well as the administrative portion of foster care daily rates paid to CPAs. The department has established these rates using cost and service report data gathered from providers who submitted their reports prior to the established deadline.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Below are the 2027 per client maximum daily rates. The published maximum rates are effective starting January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027, for all placements, regardless of placement date.

Maximum Daily Rates		
Provider Type	2027	2026
Child Placing Agency	\$ 108.11	\$ 104.38
Group Home	\$ 447.02	\$417.10
Pregnant/Parenting Teen Group Home	\$ 477.02	\$447.10
Residential Care Center	\$ 828.07	\$740.99

REQUESTING A DAILY RATE

GHs, RCCs, and CPAs are required to submit a 2026 proposed rate request by completing the [Proposed Rate Request Form \(DCF-F-2696-E\)](#) and emailing it to DCFCWLRateReg@wi.gov **on or before October 1, 2026**. Failure to meet the deadline will result in the provider waiving the right to mediation. If a licensee does not submit all proposed rate information required under Chapters DCF 52, 54 and 57 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, the department may impose sanctions and penalties under these administrative rules and § 48.715, Wis. Stats, which may include license revocation.

The department will approve individual rates by November 1, 2026, for rates effective January 1, 2027. The provider agency will receive an email from the department's rate regulation email account with the approved rate no later than November 1, 2026.

As of January 1, 2027, all placements, regardless of placement date, will follow the department's approved rates set for 2027. Pursuant to Chapters DCF 52, 54, and 57 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, an agency shall charge all Wisconsin public purchasers the same rate for the same service. If an agency negotiates a rate lower than the department's approved rate with a Wisconsin public purchaser, this rate must be charged to all purchasers, for all placements. The agency shall notify the department within five business days of a change in their rate.

For further clarification, please refer to the following table that outlines the timeline of the rate regulation process:

Timeline for Rate Regulation	
September 1	The department publishes maximum daily rates for each provider type to be effective January 1.
October 1	All agencies submit proposed rate using form F-2696-E on or before this date . If a licensee does not submit all proposed rate information required under Chapters DCF 52, 54 and 57 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, the department may impose sanctions and penalties under these administrative rules and §. 48.715, Stats, including license revocation.
Upon Receipt, and no later than November 1	The department will notify agencies of their maximum approved rate as soon as possible upon receipt and no later than November 1.

	If the department determines that an agency's proposed rate is not appropriate, the department must negotiate with the agency's licensee to determine an agreed to rate. If a licensee has negotiated with the department and does not agree to the department's approved rate, the licensee may request that the department and the licensee engage in mediation. A licensee shall request mediation within 5 business days of receiving the notification of the approved rate from the department by sending an email to DCFCWLRateReg@wi.gov. If after mediation a rate is not agreed to, the department shall order a rate as provided in administrative rule. A licensee has 30 days to appeal the rate ordered following mediation to the Division of Hearings and Appeals.
January 1	Rates are effective for all placements regardless of placement date.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Child Welfare Program Specialist
Bureau of Permanence and Out of Home Care
(262) 446-7856
DCFCWLRateReg@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: [Wisconsin Child Welfare Policies and Standards](#)

ATTACHMENTS: [Proposed Rate Request Form \(DCF-F-2696-E\)](#)