


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
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove 
Administrator

Re: Support for out-of-home care placements for youth who have been sex trafficked in
calendar year 2019

PURPOSE

In order to continue supporting counties and tribes, the Department will renew the temporary funding pool to reimburse costs for out-of-home care placements for female and male youth who have experienced sex trafficking for calendar year 2019. In addition to the renewal of funds, DCF has broadened the eligibility criteria for reimbursement to include more youth in out-of-home care impacted by sex trafficking.

BACKGROUND

Based on funding provided in Act 55, the 2019-21 biennial budget bill, DCF issued a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) to establish a specialized residential treatment program for female youth in non-Milwaukee counties who have experienced sex trafficking. A contract was awarded in 2018; however, the proposed vendor made a business decision to not proceed with the contract. In order to continue supporting counties and tribes while future options are explored, DCF will renew the temporary pool of funds to counties and tribes to pay for out-of-home care placement costs for female and male youth who have experienced sex trafficking. These funds are available to assist non-Milwaukee counties and all tribes in Wisconsin with placement costs for individuals who have experienced sex trafficking. In February 2019, DCF broadened the eligibility criteria to allow for the reimbursement of placement costs for more youth affected by sex trafficking. Counties impacted by the broadened eligibility criteria were made aware of the opportunity to seek reimbursement for placement costs incurred from July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 under the new guidelines.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Balance of state counties are eligible to apply for reimbursement of the daily rate for an out-of-home care placement for a youth who has experienced sex trafficking. Eligibility for reimbursement was expanded to include more youth who have experienced sex trafficking, in addition to the previous criteria that required a substantiated sexual abuse allegation involving sex trafficking. 11 Federally Recognized Tribes are also eligible to apply for reimbursement of the daily rate for an out-of-home care placement for a finding of youth sex trafficking that is based on similar tribal code or law. Extraordinary payments above the maximum daily rate are eligible if they relate to the youth having been sex trafficked. The youth must

have been placed in an out-of-home care placement on or after January 1, 2019. The placement can be new or existing as of January 1st. **Qualifying placements include foster care, group homes, or residential care centers in Wisconsin or another state. All other placement settings are excluded.**

In order to submit an application for reimbursement of costs, counties must have a youth placed in out-of-home care that meet one of the following eligibility categories:

Category	Definition
1	CPS sex trafficking substantiation (non-sexual abuse, sex trafficking descriptor). No CANS sex trafficking indicator.
2	CPS sex trafficking substantiation (sexual abuse, sex trafficking descriptor). No CANS sex trafficking indicator.
3	CANS sex trafficking indicator score 2 or 3
4	CPS sex trafficking allegation (non-sexual abuse; sex trafficking descriptor), that was not substantiated. CANS sex trafficking indicator 1, 2, or 3.
5	CPS sex trafficking allegation (sexual abuse; sex trafficking descriptor), that was not substantiated. CANS sex trafficking indicator 1, 2, or 3.
6	CPS sex trafficking substantiation (non-sexual abuse, sex trafficking descriptor). CANS sex trafficking indicator 1, 2, or 3.
7	CPS sex trafficking substantiation (sexual abuse, sex trafficking descriptor). CANS sex trafficking indicator 1, 2, or 3.

Dual status child welfare-youth justice cases are eligible for this funding. Cases where documentation is not required to be submitted into eWiSACWIS, such as tribal-funded placements of tribal children, must supply, depending on the eligibility category, the following: 1) tribal child welfare agency documentation of an allegation/substantiation, or similar finding, based on tribal code or law, of sex trafficking, 2) documentation of experienced sex trafficking through the CANS tool, or other assessment tool approved by the tribal agency, and 3) tribal court documentation noting the out-of-home care placement. Absent tribal code or law related to sex trafficking, tribes may use DCF-issued guidance on sex trafficking allegations.

Consistent with the intent of this funding, other allegations or substantiations of sexual abuse/neglect that do not include sex trafficking as a descriptor, including sexual exploitation, are ineligible for reimbursement. County agencies must ensure all required case documentation is complete in eWiSACWIS at the time of application, whether the youth is placed within or out-of-state. Out-of-state placements must additionally include documentation of the placement, including a copy of the contract that details the agreed upon daily rate with the program/ facility. Tribal cases that are not documented in eWiSACWIS must also provide documentation of the daily rate that was paid for the placement.

Funding in calendar year 2019 for this temporary reimbursement funding pool will be split between two cycles, due to the state fiscal year:

- **First cycle: January 1st to May 31st, 2019 – Requests due May 17th, 2019**
- **Second cycle: June 1st to December 31st, 2019 – Request due February 15th, 2020**

If the reimbursement requests exceed the funding allotment in a given cycle, all eligible requests for that cycle will be paid on a prorated basis, depending on available funds. Any unspent funds from the first cycle will carry over to the second cycle

This funding pool is temporary; funding will cease at the end of calendar year 2019 or when funds are exhausted, whichever comes first. Applications for reimbursement of eligible costs involving a Tribal child can be submitted under this funding pool or the High Cost Pool Fund for Tribal Court Placements and

Tribal Subsidized Guardianship, but not both. Eligibility guidelines are subject to review and possible changes after the first six month period.

Counties and Tribes wishing to apply for reimbursement must fill out the attached application, attach any required documentation, and submit it to DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov no later than May 17, 2019 for the first cycle and February 15, 2020 for the second cycle.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Program & Policy Analyst – Adv.
Out-of-Home Care Section
Division of Safety and Permanence
608-422-6945
DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachment Link: Temporary Funding Pool for Sex Trafficking Out-of-Home Care Placement
Application for Reimbursement
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/aht/doc/2019-10i-aht-fp-app.docx>