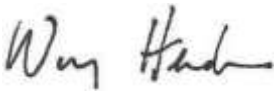


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian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

From: Wendy Henderson 
Administrator

Re: Support for out-of-home care placements for youth who have been sex trafficked in calendar year 2020

PURPOSE

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 2020. 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, which now includes all Youth Justice involved youth under the placement and care responsibility of a non-Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services agency.

BACKGROUND

Based on funding provided in Act 55, the 2019-21 biennial budget bill, DCF will continue 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-Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services agencies 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. For calendar year 2020, DCF is further broadening eligibility by including all Youth Justice involved youth under the placement and care responsibility of a non-Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services agency.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

County and tribal agencies 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, which now includes all Youth Justice involved youth, including Milwaukee County Youth Justice. 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, 2020. The placement can be new or existing as of January 1, 2020. **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 apply 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.

All children in out-of-home care where an agency has placement and care responsibility are eligible for this funding. Cases where documentation is not required to be submitted into eWiSACWIS, such as tribal-funded placements of tribal children or Milwaukee County Youth Justice involved children, must supply, depending on the eligibility category, the following: 1) tribal child welfare or county 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 or county agency, and 3) tribal court or county circuit 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 and Milwaukee County Youth Justice 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 2020 for this temporary reimbursement funding pool will be split between two cycles, due to the fiscal year:

- **First cycle: January 1 to May 31, 2020 – Requests due May 15, 2020**
- **Second cycle: June 1 to December 31, 2020 – Requests due February 12, 2021**

If the reimbursement requests exceed the funding allotment in a 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 2020 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 15, 2020 for the first cycle and February 12, 2021 for the second cycle. DCF will continue to assist in the identification of eligible youth and may contact agencies directly regarding eligible funds.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:

Out-of-Home Care Section
Division of Safety and Permanence
608-422-6921
DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos>

ATTACHMENTS: Frequently Asked Questions

Application for Reimbursement
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/docx/2020-13i-form.docx>

Temporary Funding Pool for Sex Trafficking Out-of-Home Care Placement

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When do I need to submit an application by?

There are two funding cycles:

- Requests for reimbursement of any placement costs incurred between January 1, 2020 and May 31, 2020 (“first funding cycle”) must be received by DCF no later than May 15, 2020.
- Requests for reimbursement of any placement costs incurred between June 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 (“second funding cycle”) must be received by DCF no later than February 12, 2021.

2. What if the youth is still in a placement at the time of application?

For applications for the first funding cycle, the placement end date should be listed as June 30, 2020. You may submit a second application for placement costs incurred during the second funding cycle.

For applications for the second funding cycle, the placement end date should be listed as December 31, 2020. No placement costs will be reimbursed after this date.

3. Who should be listed as the agency contact person?

The agency contact person will only be contacted if there are questions about the application and to notify you of DCF’s decision on your application. We request that you list a specific person who will be available to answer any questions we may have during the application review period; failure to do so may delay or disqualify your application.

4. When will DCF review applications? How do we know if we are approved?

DCF will review all applications for eligibility after the respective application deadlines for each funding cycle. Applications must meet all criteria listed on the application to be considered for reimbursement. Failure to include all required documentation may disqualify your application.

The person listed as the contact will receive an email approximately 4-6 weeks after the application deadline notifying you if your application was approved. 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. Any unspent funds from the first cycle will carry over to the second cycle.

5. We are requesting reimbursement under this program and do not use eWiSACWIS for our cases. How do we apply?

You must provide 1) tribal child welfare or county 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 or county agency, and 3) tribal court or county circuit court

Temporary Funding Pool for Sex Trafficking Out-of-Home Care Placement

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, available at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/pdf/memos/2017-07.pdf>.

Submit copies of the required documentation with your application for reimbursement.

6. Can we submit an application for this funding pool *and* the High Cost Pool Fund for Tribal Court Placements and Tribal Subsidized Guardianship for the same child?

No. If a child meets the eligibility criteria based on tribal code or law, you can submit an application for reimbursement under this program or the other one, but not both. If there are multiple children involved in a case, you can submit reimbursement for the child impacted by trafficking placed in out-of-home care under this program and all other eligible children under the High Cost Pool Fund for Tribal Court Placements.