

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
County Departments of Human Services Financial Managers
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
Division Administrator 

RE: Extraordinary Payments to Group Homes and Residential Care Centers for COVID-19 Costs

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to outline the process related to one-time extraordinary payments via a one-time rate increase for COVID-19 related costs that will be issued to licensed Group Homes and Residential Care Centers for children placed during the month of October 2020.

BACKGROUND

Department of Children and Families (DCF) recognizes the acute need for additional emergency funding to cover the unforeseen costs of caring for children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

This memo announces a one-time extraordinary payment being provided to group homes and residential care centers to help cover the extra costs of caring for children during the COVID-19 pandemic. These one-time funds of \$86 per child per day in Group Homes, and \$76 per child per day in Residential Care Centers, will be provided for the care of each child placed in these licensed facilities during the month of October by the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS), the balance of state counties, and the Department. These funds are provided for facilities to target additional costs in the following categories: consumables, plant and property, staffing, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for family visits and other costs related to the pandemic.

An Extraordinary Payment Request submission is not required for this disbursement. **Should you wish to opt out of receiving this additional funding, please notify DCF at**

DCFCWLR@wisconsin.gov, no later than October 28, 2020. DCF will reconcile and provide invoices of the COVID-19 eWiSACWIS extraordinary payments to providers as requested.

Additional costs incurred to support the continuity of placements that are private pay, out-of-state or by the Division of Juvenile Corrections should be resolved with those placing entities for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like all extraordinary payments, these payments will be taken into consideration in next year's rate setting process and are subject to the rules related to allowable profit or reserves.

COUNTY PROCESS

DCF will fully reimburse counties for the above extraordinary payments made to Group Homes and Residential Care Centers via SPARC Contract Code 3619 on November 2, 2020. County agencies do not need to enter anything in the SPARC portal. DCF will enter and generate all COVID-19 extraordinary payments via a one-time rate increase in eWiSACWIS. Counties should use their regular check/ACH process to then pay providers based on the eWiSACWIS electronic payment file. These funds will be included in the November 2, 2020 batch run of payments. Counties are encouraged to expedite the available funds to the facilities currently incurring increased costs due to COVID-19 pandemic.

DCF will hold a state-wide conference call with County Human Service Financial Managers on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom to review the process and answer any questions.

<https://dcfwi.zoom.us/j/83579780904?pwd=b2J6d1VBOHdkaW1ra0pUbk1vcEtSQTO9>

You may also join the Zoom meeting by phone:

1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 835 7978 0904

Passcode: 778484

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:

Child Welfare Program Specialist
Bureau of Permanence and Out-of-Home Care
Department of Children and Families
(262) 446-7856

MEMO WEB SITE:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>