

Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP)



What is a QRTP?

A QRTP is a congregate care facility that is designed for youth with serious mental health or behavioral needs. Facilities seeking certification as a QRTP must meet the following elements:



Why QRTP is Important and the benefits?

The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 implemented new criteria for the use of federal funds for child welfare services.

- ◆ Wisconsin benefits from the new funding model that allows for Title IV-E reimbursement for all youth who receive services in a certified QRTP.
- ◆ Allowable IV-E reimbursement includes supportive services to best meet the treatment needs of youth, family-based aftercare support services, and post-discharge services.
- ◆ Wisconsin reimbursement rates for services provided may be higher for certified QRTPs. [DSP Informational Memo Series 2021-32i](#)
- ◆ The required element of a Trauma Informed Treatment Model (TITM), as part of certification as a QRTP, may enhance the quality of care provided to youth. [DCF's example of a TITM](#)

How to apply for QRTP Certification?

Licensed group homes, residential care centers, and shelter care facilities may apply for certification.

- ◆ The DCF Child Welfare Licensing Section (CWLS) [website](#) offers a complete list of requirements and application for certification.
- ◆ Technical assistance is available from CWLS staff to assist all applicants.
- ◆ Accreditation is required and information may be found here: [Council on Accreditation \(COA\)](#), [Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities \(CARF\)](#), [Joint Commission](#), and other independent, not-for-profit accrediting organizations approved by the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#).

Provider Considerations

- **Begin the accreditation process.** It can take up to 18 months.
- **Review current treatment model and fidelity applied to it.** Is it trauma-informed? Is it designed to be short-term and goal-oriented?
- **Identify family and youth engagement process and policies;** ensuring coordination throughout treatment.
- **Assess programs and services** offered onsite and align with QRTP requirements.
- **Think about physical location and array of services** available to youth and families; and determine best approach in providing family-based aftercare supportive services to ensure timely reunification and supports post-discharge.
- **Review service array** and determine if it's broad enough to ensure ongoing viability with emphasis on preventing future congregate care placement.

