

# Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Desk Guide



## What is a QRTP?

A QRTP (qualified residential treatment program) is a congregate care facility (residential treatment center, group home, or shelter care facility) that meets specific criteria to receive a certification known as a QRTP.

Trauma Informed Treatment Model

Nursing

Family Participation

Accreditation



### Trauma Informed Treatment Model

A QRTP shall provide services according to a trauma-informed treatment model that is designed to meet the needs, including clinical needs as appropriate, of children with serious emotional and behavioral disorders or disturbances and is able to implement the treatment identified for a specific child by a standardized assessment

### Nursing



A QRTP shall have registered nurse or licensed practical nurse staff and other clinical staff who:

- (A) provide care within the scope of their practice as defined by state law;
- (B) are on-site according to the facility's trauma-informed treatment model
- (C) are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

To fulfill part C of this requirement, QRTPs have access to a 24/7 nurse telehealth line to fulfill this requirement:

## Family Participation

A QRTP shall facilitate family participation in each child's treatment program to the extent appropriate and in accordance with the child's best interest, consistent with the child's permanency plan. **For an Indian child:** the "family" of an Indian child includes the child's extended family members, as defined by WICWA, others identified in accordance to tribal law or custom, and, if applicable, the child's Indian custodian.

A QRTP shall have policies and procedures on family participation in a child's treatment program that specify how to do all the following:

1. Facilitate outreach to the child's family members, including siblings, and document how the outreach is done.
2. Maintain contact information for any known relatives and like-kin of the child.
3. Facilitate participation of the child's family members in the child's treatment program.
4. Document how the child's family members are integrated into the child's treatment program, including after the child's discharge from the QRTP.
5. Document how the child's connections with siblings are maintained.



## Accreditation



The QRTP facility shall be nationally accredited by any of the following independent, not-for-profit organizations:

1. The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF);
2. The Joint Commission (JC);
3. The Council on Accreditation (COA); or
4. Any other independent, not-for-profit accrediting organization approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

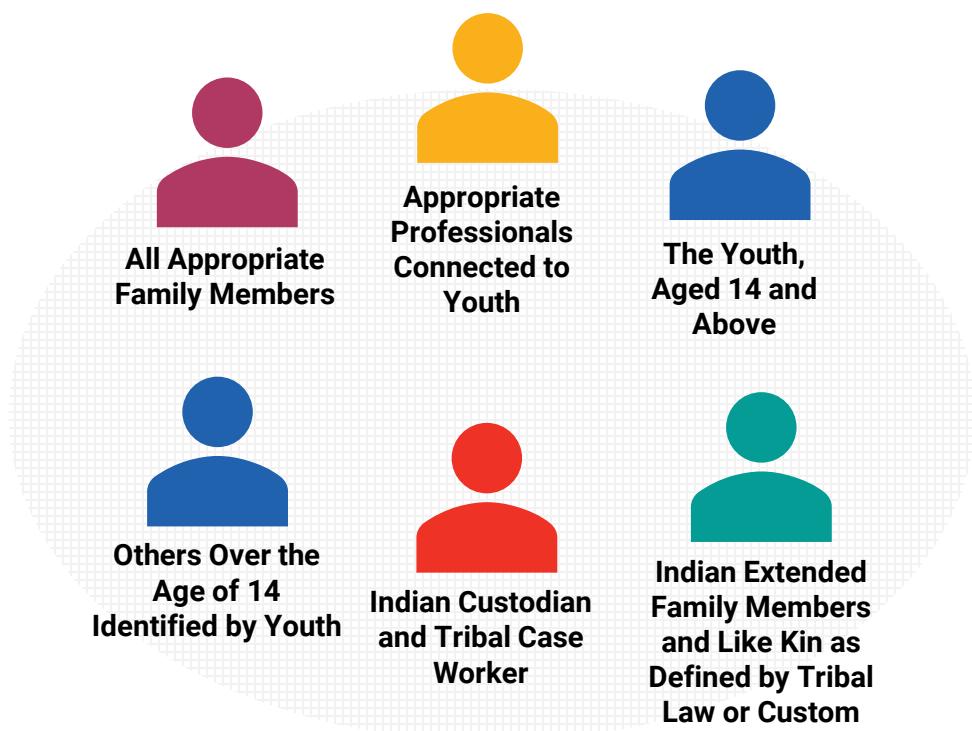
## Child Welfare Practice Implications

### Family Permanency Teams

If a child is placed in a setting certified as a QRTP, the agency with placement and care responsibility is required to assemble a **family permanency team** for the child. If the child or youth is an Indian child, the tribal caseworker must be invited to participate in the family permanency team. Family permanency teams, consisting of family members, professionals, and others who are a resource for the child, participate in the assessment and placement decision-making process, as well as permanency planning.

The initial family permanency team meeting may be held prior to a child or youth's placement in a QRTP, but no greater than 30 days after the date of placement in the QRTP. The team meetings shall be held at a time and place convenient for the family to the extent possible.

#### Members of Family Permanency Teams



# Child Welfare Practice Implications

## Documentation Requirements

Each time a child has a new placement in a certified QRTP, the agency with placement and care responsibility must comply with the placement and court finding requirements. The following elements are required under Chapters 48 and 938 in conjunction with the Ongoing Services Standards.

- Complete a Child Adolescent Needs & Strengths assessment in eWISACWIS within 30 days from the date of placement in a QRTP. The initial determination of a child's level of need shall be made no more than 30 days prior to placement in a group home or residential care center, unless the placement is completed on an emergency basis.
- For an Indian child, the agency must invite and collaborate with the tribal child welfare professional to assist with any assessing and planning.
- Complete the Permanency Plan Addendum in eWISACWIS within 30 days of placement in a QRTP, or earlier if required by statute.

## Court Review and Findings

The placement of a child or youth in a QRTP requires the court's review and a judicial finding either approving or disapproving of the placement within 60 days of the start of a child or youth's placement in a QRTP.

- Submit the court form requesting QRTP findings, the Permanency Plan Addendum and the CANS assessment to the court within 30 days after the placement start date, or earlier if required by statute.
- Within 60 days of placement in a QRTP, the court shall make the following findings:
  - Whether the needs of the child can be met in a foster family home, and if not,
  - Whether the QRTP provides the most effective and appropriate level of care in the least restrictive environment.
  - Whether the placement in a QRTP is consistent with the goals for the child, as identified in the permanency plan.
  - Whether the court approves or disapproves the placement.

## Continued QRTP Placement

Placement of children and youth in facilities certified as a QRTP must be continually assessed for the duration of the child or youth's placement to determine the ongoing appropriateness of the placement setting.

- The agency with placement and care responsibility is required to reassess each child and the child's out-of-home care provider within six months after the child's last determination or re-determination.
- Ongoing determinations about the continued appropriateness of the child or youth's QRTP placement at each permanency plan review or hearing for the child if the child continues to be placed in a QRTP.

## Child Welfare Practice Implications

### Extended QRTP Placements

Applies to any child or youth who is placed in a QRTP for more than 12 consecutive months or 18 nonconsecutive months (or, in the case of a child under age thirteen, for more than six consecutive or nonconsecutive months). The head of the agency must provide approval for ongoing placement using the Extended Placement in a Setting Certified as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program form.

After reviewing the form, the head of the agency must check the appropriate checkbox indicating they have reviewed the evidence and documentation demonstrating a QRTP placement is needed and approve the continued placement of this child in a QRTP. The form should be uploaded into eWiSACWIS once it has been signed by the head of the agency, child welfare professional and supervisor.

A lack or shortage of available placements in a less restrictive setting is **NOT** an acceptable reason to allow for the extended QRTP placement.

### Family-based Aftercare Support Services and Discharge Planning of Youth in a QRTP

The most important part of post-discharge services is assuring a smooth transition for the youth with no gaps in service. Best practices in discharge and family-based aftercare support planning includes a close partnership between the facility and the placing agency, the youth, the youth's family/like-kin, tribe and Indian custodian, and any other treatment providers involved in the youth's service provision

Under federal FFPSA, a QRTP must provide discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for a minimum of 6 months post-discharge of a youth from a program. Not all youth will require the same services. The choice of services selected are determined by the youth's needs, where they are discharging to, and availability of services in the community or subsequent placement.

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