



2022 Budget Priority In-Home Foster Care Prevention Services *Fully fund the cost of services consistent with the 2021 rate study*

What is Needed?

Ensure the availability of in-home prevention services by fully funding the results of the 2021 In-home prevention services rate study of **\$8.5 million a year (\$17 million biennium)**.

Why is a Full Reimbursement Needed?

WACF strongly encourages the legislature to fully fund the cost of in-home prevention services. Failing to do so will continue to limit the number of families most at risk of entering foster care from receiving prevention services which prevent the need for out-of-home placements in the foster care system and support timely reunification. Funding will help eliminate current waitlists, maintain the current availability of services and build the capacity of services which also help facilitate reunification.

What the Legislature Can Do

Fully fund the results of the in-home prevention services rate study completed by a third-party consultant and funded by DCYF.

Background

DCYF funds in-home family preservation and support services which are evidenced-based programs to prevent entry into foster care, protect child safety, promote reunification of children with their families and comply with court orders. While in-home prevention services providers have not received a rate increase since before the last recession, the pandemic has also reduced the capacity of these services in both rural and urban communities which has resulted in wait lists for families to receive services.

- Fully funding in-home prevention service providers will help support economic recovery as we exit the pandemic.
- Fully funding in-home prevention service providers will help achieve recent policy goals of the legislature to keep children and families out of foster care and promote family reunification.
- Fully funding these services will help ensure that DCYF will be able to maintain, and increase, necessary provider capacity for the federal Family Preservation Prevention Services Act.
- Fully funding these services will help DCYF meet the federal Children's Bureau requirement that placement prevention and reunification services are equitably available to all families regardless of where they live.
- Failing to fully fund in-home prevention service providers may disproportionality impact minority-operated agencies offering these services. Some of the service providers who offer in-home prevention services are smaller, minority-led, agencies who have been reduced to almost half of their capacity.

For Additional Information Contact

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