



## 2021 Budget Request Child Placing Agencies Rate Increase

### What is Needed?

CPAs were successful in obtaining a badly-needed stabilizing 7.5% rate increase in the most recent supplemental budget which the legislature acknowledged was needed but was, unfortunately, vetoed due to the Covid-19 emergency.

### What Legislators Can do to Help

**We are requesting that the 7.5% increase be restored to help strengthen CPAs and their vital work in their communities for children, youth and families.**

### What are CPAs?

Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) serve as an important foundation for the state's foster care system.

Child Placing Agencies are private community-based agencies that contract with the state to recruit, license, train and support foster parents as well as to provide case management services for the children in their care.

CPAs provide many services and support to foster parents, as well as those that support DCYF case workers with scheduling appointments and assisting with educational requirements for foster youth. CPAs recruit families in rural areas, provide care to LGBT and minority youth and work to keep kids in their communities which supports family reunification.

### Background

CPAs have not regained the rate cuts that they took during the last recession. A rate assessment conducted in 2018 showed that the rate CPAs receive for their services is half what it costs them to provide those services. They also receive less than \$200 for each foster family they license.

During the pandemic, CPAs have provided the much-needed support to foster parents and youth. A foster parent advocate recently stated on a child welfare call that unless a foster family is licensed through a CPA, they are not receiving the high level of support that is needed during the Covid-19 crisis with online schooling. CPAs are continuing to provide vital services for parents and families as foster parents and children in care experience unprecedented strain during the pandemic.

#### For Additional Information Contact

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