



2021 Budget Priority In-Home Service Providers Need Full Reimbursement for Travel Time

What is Needed?

Ensure the availability of in-home prevention services by maintaining the \$2.3 million a year allocation for time spent traveling to family homes that was funded last legislative session.

Why is a Full Reimbursement Needed?

WACF strongly encourages the legislature to maintain the travel reimbursement rate it funded because without this rate the number of families who receive prevention services will decrease. These services help keep children and youth out of the foster care system.

What the Legislature Can Do

Carry forward into the 2021-23 budget the \$2.3 million a year proviso that improved the rate of pay for travel to family homes. Retain the current proviso in the supplemental budget.

Background

DCYF funds in-home family preservation and support services, including evidenced-based programs, to protect child safety, promote reunification of children with their families, and comply with court orders. There is a disproportionate number of children of color in foster care; in-home services support families of color to prevent foster care entry. In rural, and some urban communities, the time spent traveling to client families is often significant. Family preservation and support services prevent children from entering foster care. Services to both rural and urban communities are threatened by the Governor's proposed delay of the travel reimbursement rate increase, as providers will be unable to continue to serve some families because of time spent traveling to their homes. Further, these services help ensure that DCYF will be able to maintain necessary provider capacity for the federal Family First Prevention Services Act and to meet the federal Children's Bureau requirement that placement prevention and reunification services are equitably available to all families regardless of where they live. Travel to client homes decreased due to Covid-19 for a short time in 2020 due to safety concerns. However, prevention services providers have now returned to in-home client sessions in many situations and will be needed now more than ever.

For Additional Information Contact

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