

FOSTER CHILDREN ARE PAYING THE COSTS FOR OUR INACTION

SUPPORT FULL FUNDING FOR BEHAVIOR REHABILITATION SERVICES

The Results of Our Inaction

170+ facility beds have **CLOSED** from 2009-2017 due to inadequate rates:

Agency	Beds Closed
Navos Ruth Dykeman	35
Excelsior	28
Children's Home Society	25
Service Alternative	24
Virginia Miller	16
Comm Youth Services	12
Secret Harbor	12
Ryther	10
Faith Homes	6
Manaway	6
Friends of Youth	4

When there are not enough beds in-state to accept all children requiring high levels of care, **those children are sent thousands of miles away from their families and communities to facilities in other states that cost more:**

Year	In-State Reimbursement	Average Out-of-State Reimbursement*
2008	\$230 per day	\$274 per day
2009	\$230 per day	\$245 per day
2010	\$230 per day	\$374 per day
2011	\$230 per day	\$347 per day
2012	\$230 per day	\$369 per day
2013	\$230 per day	\$370 per day
2014	\$230 per day	\$310 per day
2015	\$237 per day	\$322 per day
2016	\$244 per day	\$344 per day
2017	\$269 per day	\$425 per day
2018	\$269 per day	\$394 per day

*based on current available data

When a child needs an out-of-home placement immediately, and nothing is available, that child is often placed in a hotel room for the night with State Social Workers to supervise. **Between September, 2016 and August, 2017, 195 children and youth spent the night in hotels or offices over 820 times at an average cost of \$2,104 per day.**

The Steps to a Solution

Two things happened in 2018 to help make a solution possible:

In response to the crisis, the Washington Legislature passed SSHB 6013

This bill required that a study of BRS costs be completed. A national firm with expertise in these types of analysis was contracted by the State of Washington to conduct the study. The [study](#) found that facility-based providers are significantly under-reimbursed and **recommended funding BRS group homes at the cost of care, which is only \$13 more than the average cost of out-of-state placements last year.**

United States Congress passed the milestone Families First Act

This [act](#) allows states to access MILLIONS of dollars of prevention funding to keep children from needing out-of-home care, meaning Washington can help reduce the number of children who need BRS. In order to receive that money, every BRS group home in Washington must meet a list of strict requirements, which is not possible at the current rate.

THE SOLUTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN:

Support the full cost of BRS care in Washington and avoid the loss of additional group home beds.

Please ask your Legislators to contact Representative Ormsby and Senator Rolfe to ensure BRS care is fully funded in this biennial budget.

