



Crucial services for high-need kids are drastically underfunded

A new study conducted for the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) reveals the state's rates for behavioral rehabilitative services (BRS) for foster children are completely inadequate. For example, placing a child or youth in a residential facility costs \$442 per day, compared to the \$267 the state provides. As a result, Washington has lost more than 170 residential beds in the last eight years, forcing the state to place children and youth in state custody out of state or in hotels.

More than \$50 million is needed to fix the problem

Because the rate study wasn't completed until after Gov. Jay Inslee released his budget proposal, his budget contains only \$26 million – just half what is needed. The governor now supports the larger amount, and as state Senate and House craft their budgets in the coming weeks, they **must** include additional resources for these vital services. Lawmakers ordered this study by the nationally respected Public Consulting Group to measure the extent of the problem. Now it's time for them to step up and provide the necessary funding.

What that money will accomplish

- Restore and expand capacity to care for children in state custody in therapeutic settings.
- Prevent vulnerable children and youth from being sent out of state, which is more expensive.
- Keep children and youth from staying in hotels under DCYF staff supervision, which is an inappropriate and expensive solution.
- Allow BRS providers to recruit and retain highly skilled staff to help children and youth. Current reimbursement rates force agencies to pay minimum wage.
- Allow the DCYF to tap millions of federal dollars to offset the cost of group homes and fund prevention efforts.
- End a care shortage that doesn't provide children the services they need and drives burnout and turnover among the agencies who care for them.



What you can do to help

Contact your legislators today and urge them to fully fund Behavioral Rehabilitation Services at the \$52 million level as identified in the BRS Rate Study of 2018 so impacted kids are provided the services they desperately need.

Learn more at: action.wachildrenandfamilies.org