



WACF is a growing Association of large and small providers working toward a safer, happier future for youth and families in our State. Together, we promote safety, permanency and well-being for children and families who are involved or at risk of involvement with the child welfare system. Our work represents three primary areas of service: 1) Family Preservation and Support Services (Prevention), 2) Child Placing Agencies (Foster Care), and 3) Intensive Services (BRS, Crisis Centers, Foster Care and Residential Care)

FULL COST OF CARE FOR BRS RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

2018 Request: Pass SB6013 providing cost of care reimbursement for residential behavioral rehabilitative services for the most challenging youth in the foster care system. With reimbursement rates hovering around 70% of costs, over 130 beds have been lost in the past seven years resulting in **over 70 youth being placed in residential facilities outside of Washington State (1/2018.)**

Problem Statement: The loss of residential treatment beds for BRS youth has been steady since the rate was cut by 10% in 2009. Costs for an adequate workforce, 24-hour staffing, clinical expertise and facility upkeep have increased dramatically in the same time period. Over 50 % of the residential care beds within Washington State have closed since 2009 and our most challenging youth are being sent to other States because there are no resources available to them.

Cost: The cost of SB6013 is being calculated through the legislative process and will be listed here when available.

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EXTEND FAMILY ASSESSMENT RESPONSE TIMELINE TO 120 DAYS

2018 Request: Extend the time period for cases to remain open in FAR. A period of 120 days rather than the current 90 would give families time to participate in Evidence Based Programs and other in-home services.

Statement of the Problem: There has historically been an underutilization of the Family Assessment Response (FAR) budget for in home services including Evidence Based Programs (EBPs). The November 2017 report from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy showed that less than 10% of FAR families received a paid in-home service, and less than 3% received an EBP. Part of the under spending in FAR is because many of the state's in-home EBPs do not fit within the FAR 90 day time limit. While the program may be shorter than the current 90 day FAR time limit, referrals to the programs usually do not occur in the first weeks of a FAR case. In addition, families miss some appointments, further extending service duration.

Cost: DSHS estimates no additional funding will be needed. Assuming funding levels for FAR are consistent with the 2015-2017 biennium, it is anticipated passage of this bill would allow families to be better served within existing appropriation amounts.

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