![Washington Association for Children & Families logo]

VENDOR RATE RESTORATION FOR PRIVATE CHILD PLACING AGENCY FEE

HISTORY
In Washington State foster parents can be licensed directly by DSHS or they can choose to become licensed by a private Child Placing Agency (CPA). Foster parents who choose to be licensed by a CPA often do so because of the additional case management support they receive and the supportive community of foster parents found within a specialized agency. CPA's receive an agency fee for each child placed in their foster families and under their supervision.

In July 2006, the Child Placing Agency's fee (CPA Fee) for a child receiving case management services in family foster care was $414.16 per month. In 2009 this rate was reduced to $404.00 per month. This rate was reduced again in 2011 and dropped to $379.00. These reductions followed a documented rate study done in 2009 which indicated that CPA fees only cover 49% of a Child Placing Agency's cost of providing family foster care services.

The Washington Association for Children and Families recently acquired data from DLR regarding the number of CPA's that are no longer providing family foster care services since 2009. This data shows a 22% decrease (130 to 102) in licensed CPA's since the initial rate reduction in 2009. It is significant that the decrease has been steady over the past six years. An issue that is harder to quantify is the number of CPA's who have chosen to do only Behavioral Rehabilitation Services foster care because of the CPA rate.

There is no question all of this has contributed to a significant decline in the number of licensed foster homes now available for children needing out-of-home care. Just in the last 3 years this number has decreased from 6,000 licensed families statewide to under 4,900 licensed families.

REQUEST
We are asking for the legislature to restore the agency fee rates (8.63%) while including a cost of living increase (9.4%). The total annual fiscal request is for $925,000 (based on DSHS CA 2015-17 Decision Package Request).

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