



PAYMENT TO IN-HOME SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR TRAVEL TIME TO FAMILY HOMES

HISTORY

The Children's Administration pays in-home services providers a reduced hourly rate for time spent travelling to client homes. The current hourly rate for clinical time is \$65.00; the rate for clinician travel to family homes is only half that - \$32.50. This rate is used in several programs, including key evidence based programs. The CA has not been able to provide any rationale for paying this half rate.

This low rate of pay prohibits many private agencies from providing in-home services in rural areas, resulting in lack of service availability in too many areas of our state. In addition, over time it has also become a serious problem in King County, where distances are not great but time spent in traffic now is. An analysis of hundreds of families served by one major provider last year shows that the average time spent in a family preservation services home visit was 1.5 hours, and the travel time was .7 hours. Using the current vendor rates, this translates to a net hourly rate of \$55.00 an hour for the time spent for each visit. The net rate drops to \$52.00 an hour to deliver some of the EBPs, where the average time in the home visit is less.

These net rates are not adequate or sustainable; they do not even cover the costs of service delivery. Providers report continued losses on most in-home services, and some have had to stop delivery of services, particularly in rural areas of the state. In just the Family Preservation Services contract, one provider showed a loss of \$15,000 in the first quarter of FY16.

REQUEST

We are asking that the legislature provides funding, and requires that the Children's Administration pay the full \$65.00 an hour vendor rate for time spent travelling to families. The projected cost, provided by the Children's Administration, would be \$490,000 a year.

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