

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

VENDER RATE RESTORATION FOR BEHAVIORAL REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, FOSTER HOME PRIVATE AGENCY FEE AND IN HOME SUPPORT SERVICES

HISTORY AND REQUEST

BEHAVIORAL REHABILITATION SERVICES: In July, 2009 DSHS Children's Administration reduced the BRS reimbursement rate by 10%, and told providers the rate reduction was temporary. The rate has never been restored. Providers have closed programs due to being unable to sustain BRS level care with sub-standard reimbursement rates. The Children's Administration submitted a decision package to the Governor for inclusion in his 2015-2017 budget, however it was not included in the final Governor's budget. We are asking the legislature to restore the BRS rate including an inflationary increase. The projected costs outlined below are those provided by the DSHS Children's Administration.

CHILD PLACING AGENCIES: In July 2006 the Child Placing Agency's fee (CPA FEE) for a child receiving case management services in family foster care was \$414 per month. In 2011 that rate was dropped to \$379. This rate reduction was in addition to a documented rate study done in 2009 that indicated that CPA fees only cover 49% of Child Placing Agencies cost for providing child welfare services. CPAs play a vital role in recruiting and maintaining foster homes. The shortage in homes is acute; this year, after twenty years of having approximately 6000 homes statewide, we are at only 4800 homes. We are asking the legislature to restore the CPA fee including an inflationary increase. The projected costs outlined below are those provided by the DSHS Children's Administration.

FAMILY PRESERVATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES: The reimbursement rate for family preservation services was established in 1996. While adjusted upward for inflation for a few years, no adjustment has occurred since 2002, and what was supposed to be a temporary decrease was put in place in 2010. This same reimbursement rate has been used for newer services, including parts of the contracts for Evidence Based Programs. In addition to the problem of inadequate rates for clinical services, travel time of clinical staff is only reimbursed at half the rate, leading to an inability of providers to serve families in rural areas. We are asking that the legislature restore the rates for FPS, FSS, SafeCare, and Triple P to at least \$65.00 an hour. In addition, we are asking that travel time in these programs be paid at the full hourly rate. The projected costs outlined below are those provided by the DSHS Children's Administration.

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2015-17 Biennial Budget Vendor Rate Increase

	2015 Allotment	Rate Restoration	IPD	Total per fiscal year increase	Federal %	State %	Federal *	State	
BRS	\$56,069,000	\$3,291,250.30	\$5,266,424.68	\$8,557,674.98	24%	76%	\$2,053,841.99	\$6,503,832.98	
CPA's	\$5,135,000	\$443,150.50	\$482,318.05	\$925,468.55	0%	100.00%	\$ -	\$925,468.55	
		\$3,734,400.80	\$5,748,742.72	\$9,483,143.52			\$2,053,841.99	\$7,429,301.53	\$9,483,143.52
		\$7,468,801.60	\$11,497,485.45	\$18,966,287.05					
	2015 Allotment	Increase to Case-Related Activities	Increase to Travel Activities	Total per fiscal year increase	Federal %	State %	Federal	State	
FPSS	\$7,575,000	\$909,208	\$622,673	\$1,531,881	0%	100%	\$0	\$1,531,861	

*Federal Source is Title XIX for BRS. No Title IV-E is assumed, given CA is operating under a Title IV-E Waiver, with a capped allocation.