

September 21, 2023

External Decision Package (DP) and Agency Request Legislation (ARL) Webinar Q&A

Q: Do you have a breakdown of the \$5.1m for the 3 D.S. requests?

A: The breakdown is in the decision package on the **Government Affairs website**. The DS Request is **linked here**.

Q: Regarding the Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) request, do you have a sense of what Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) will be evaluating/what will be measured

A: The WSIPP details are on **page 4 of the FRS DP**.

Q: How can we find out what each of the 7 classification levels entail?

A: This is in regards to the Caregiver supports package and the foster care rate increase payment. There is information on the **Government Affairs website** about the shift we asked for and was funded last year. The payment changes roll out January 1. The services and supports that come with that will roll out later but is not yet in place. More information is forthcoming in direct communication with caregivers, guardians, and providers. All of our decision packages are posted on the **Government Affairs website** and are broken down in maintenance level and policy level requests.

Q: Are these proposals on your website now?

A: Yes all of the proposals are available on the **DCYF Government Affairs webpage**.

Q: Can you talk a bit more about the community based FRS? And the early counties, what it will entail etc.

A: The proposed implementation is based on a model co-designed with youth and families. Details of the proposal begin on **page three of the Decision Package**:

"In the early implementation phase, DCYF requests funding to implement three expansion sites for the co-designed, community-based FRS. The early implementation sites in King, Pierce, and Yakama counties will serve over 1,000 families in FY 2025 and an assumed 20% increase in FY 2026. Funding for this model is based on the estimated cost to serve families, with a primary focus on enabling contractors to recruit and retain staff for service delivery. DCYF is committed to public, transparent, and data-driven methods for developing rate models that fully compensate providers for the cost of a service and support worker well-being.

Q: Who is working on exact details of the 7 levels? Is there a person to follow up with or info when they will have specific definitions? Right now everything is vague. We have seen the chart but further details would be great.



A: DCYF contracted with the Department of Social and Health Services Research and Analysis Division to analyze the support needs of youth in out of home care. The 7-level system is based upon the support needs identified in their analysis. A summary of this analysis is available on the DSHS - RDA website: **Informing the Placement Continuum: Classifying Children in Out of Home Placement Using Integrated Administrative Data**. The DCYF Placement Continuum team has been working on the implementation of the new rate structure. For more questions on the new 7-level system, please contact the Placement Continuum team at dcyf.caregiversupports@dcyf.wa.gov

Q: Is the lived experience stipend based on federal poverty level (FPL) or Median Income?

A: The Office of Equity has developed guidance for State Agencies to follow regarding the stipends for lived experience. **The guidance is posted on their website**. The Office of Equity defines “Low Income” as “An individual whose income is not more than 400% of the federal poverty level, adjusted for family size.” DCYF’s **Stipends for Lived Experience Decision Package is linked on the GA Webpage**.