

# Caregiver Supports Project

Tribal Overview: Consideration of Changes and Impacts

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Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

# Welcome

## Caregiver Supports Project:

Implement a continuum of placement resources that enable safe, stable, and supported placements for children and youth in foster care.

## What this means:

All caregivers: unlicensed relative/kinship caregivers and licensed foster homes will have the ability to receive equal support services, based on the child's needs, through phased project implementation.



# Presentation Overview

## Two Phased Approach to Project Implementation:

- **Phase 1**: Foster Care Payments are Changing
  - Direct payments to foster parents & rate changes
  - Changes to Rate Assessments: Levels, Format and Process
  - Tribes given the option to conduct rate assessments on TPO children: impacts & considerations
- **Phase 2**: Support Services Available to All Caregivers
  - Support services available to all caregivers; unlicensed relative/kinship placements and licensed foster homes
  - Rate assessments will be conducted on all TPO children to determine level of support available to the caregiver
  - Tribes will be given the option to conduct rate assessments on all TPO children and provide support services to all placement families through a contract with DCYF



# Key Terms to Remember

- **TPO-Tribal Payment Only**
  - Children under the care/custody of a tribal court who are open for payment of services through DCYF
- **CPA-Child Placing Agency**
  - Tribes who have a Child Placing Agency license through DCYF to conduct foster care licensing certification by following Washington Administrative Codes for licensing
- **IGA-Intergovernmental Agreements**
  - Tribes that have established Intergovernmental Agreements with DCYF to conduct their own licensing following the federal standards of foster care licensing
- **PET-Placement Entry Tool**
  - Form that is submitted to TPO every time a child is placed in a new placement, so the placement is updated in FamLink, and services can be paid for by DCYF



# Two Phase Implementation Process

**Effective July 1, 2023:** Licensing incentive to CPA's for new foster homes licensed increased from \$206.26 to \$1000

## **Phase 1: Level payment change for all licensed caregivers**

- Implementation to occur on January 1, 2024

### **Changes to current process:**

- Tribal CPA licensed foster homes will be paid directly by DCYF
  - CPA's will no longer be paid monthly foster care payments to disperse to their foster homes
- Current 4-level rate assessment system replaced by 7-level resource level continuum
  - Elimination of Exceptional Cost Plans (ECP's)
- Rate assessments will be called “caregiver support level” and will be based on the documented needs and services of the child to support the caregiver

# Phase 1: Changes to Rate Assessments

- Rate assessments (R/A) will be conducted using a specified “tool” based on a child’s diagnosis, medication and services the child is engaged in
  - Rate assessments will be verified through health care records data
  - Change from current practice of having a conversation with the foster parent
- Required to be conducted within 7 days of placement, verified within 21 days of placement and not completed again until 6 months after initial assessment
  - Change from current practice of rate assessment completed with every move
  - Foster parents can request an updated rate assessment if/when circumstances change (new diagnosis, new medication prescription, engagement in new services-SUD/MH)
- Tribes will be given the option to conduct own rate assessments on TPO children using specified tool
  - Considerations: impact to CPA/IGA structure/staffing/budgets in order to conduct own R/A
    - Timelines for completion, access to medical records if Tribe is verifying data (optional)

# Phase 1 – Payments for Licensed Caregivers

Implementation January 1, 2024

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5	LEVEL 6	LEVEL 7
New Support Levels	Basic Maintenance Foster Care	Support Needs: Adolescent Low Needs	Support Needs: Chronic Physical Health	Support Needs: Developmental Disability	Support Needs: Developmental Disability & Chronic Physical Health	Support Needs: Moderate Mental Health	Support Needs: Complex Mental Health
Rates for Caregiver Support Levels Based on Age							
Age: 0-5	\$722	N/A	\$1,407	\$1,749.50	\$2,092	\$2,434.50	\$2,777
Age: 6-11	\$846	N/A	\$1,531	\$1,873.50	\$2,216	\$2,558.50	\$2,901
Age: 12+	\$860	\$1,202.50	\$1,545	\$1,887.50	\$2,230	\$2,572.50	\$2,915



# Phase 2: Implementation Process

## **Phase 2: Support services available to all caregivers; unlicensed relative placements and licensed foster homes**

- Phased implementation 2024-2026 (exact timeline undetermined)
- Supports designed to help all caregivers coordinate, navigate and access services for children of varying needs in their care

### **Changes to current process:**

- Rate assessments will be conducted on all TPO children to determine level of support available to the caregiver
- Tribes will be given the option to conduct rate assessments on all TPO children using specified tool
  - Considerations: impact to staffing/budget in identification of staff responsible for conducting R/A; meeting timelines, access to healthcare records in verification process





# Phase 2 – Support Services Contract

Phased Implementation 2024-2026

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Support Needs Category	Basic Maintenance Foster Care	Support Needs: Low	Support Needs: Chronic Physical Health	Support Needs: Developmental Disability	Support Needs: Developmental Disability & Complex Physical Health	Support Needs: Moderate Mental Health	Support Needs: Complex Mental Health
New Standard Support			Case Aid supports available levels 3-7				
	Placement supports to help caregivers coordinate, navigate and access services						

Areas of caregiver support: System Navigation for Education-Related, Health and Well-Being, Child Care, Culturally and Developmentally Appropriate Care, Transition to Adulthood, Crisis Supports

# Phase 2 – Support Services Contract

## Phased Implementation 2024-2026

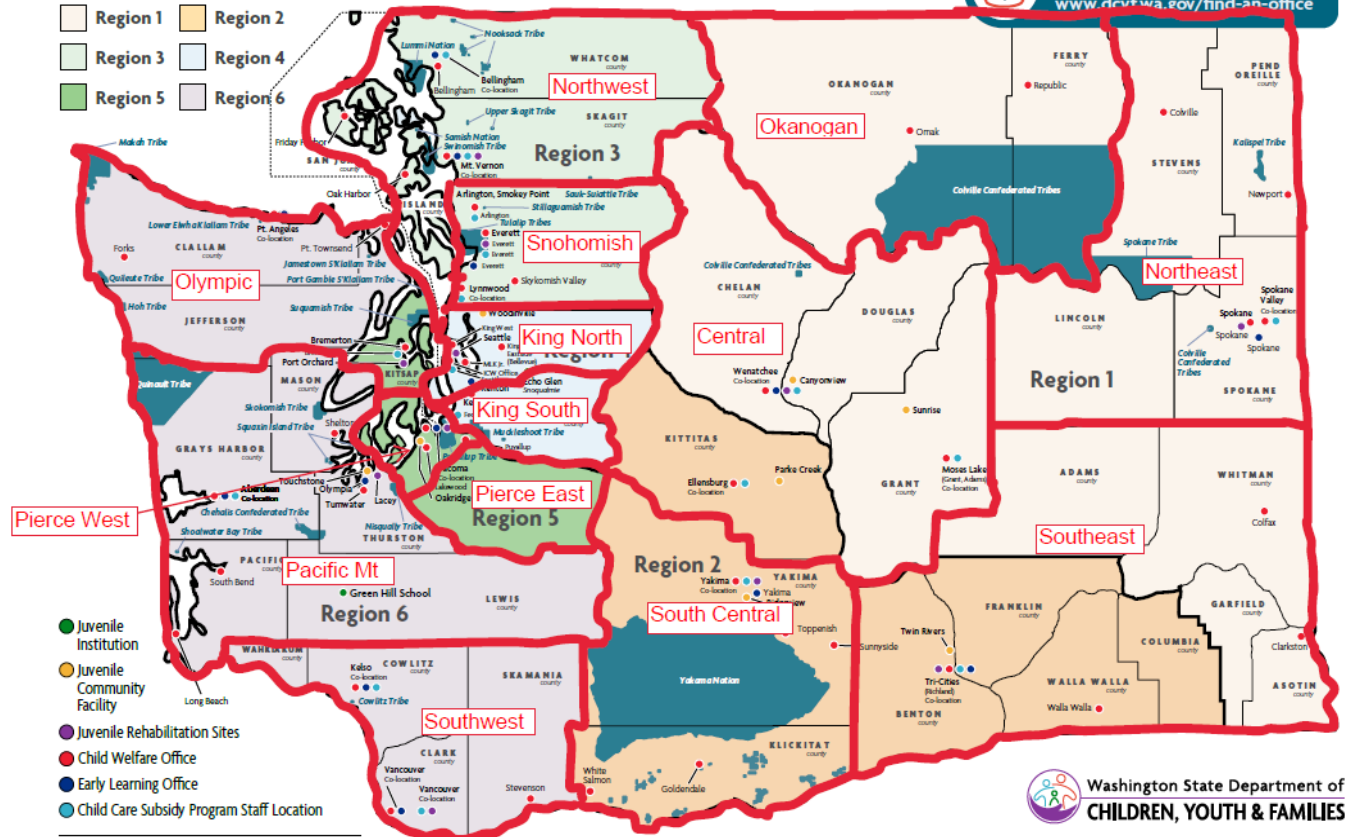
- The type/level of support services available to each caregiver is based on the level the child is placed in-determined by the rate assessment
  - Levels 3-7 qualify for Case Aid support hours, based on the child's documented needs
- Tribes will be given the option to provide support services to all caregivers of TPO children placed, through a contract with DCYF
- If Tribes choose not to provide their own support services, support services will be provided by the identified contractor in their determined catchment area
- Tribal CPA's/IGA's can choose to provide support services only to their licensed foster homes
  - Unlicensed placements can access support services through the contracted provider in their designated catchment area



# Phase 2 Catchment Areas

Department of Children, Youth & Families **Regional Structure**

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# RESOURCE DETERMINATION PROCESS

(formally known as Rate Assessments)

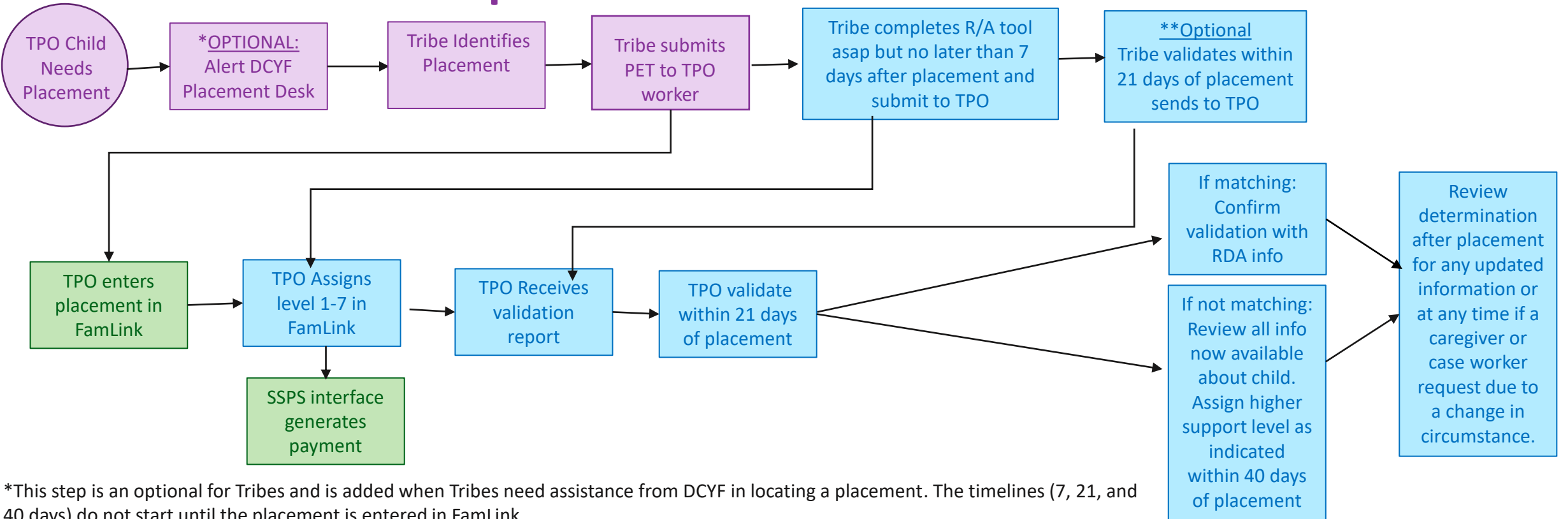
## Tribal Specific

### RESPONSIBLE POSITION KEY

Purple = Tribal Caseworker/Current Process

Green = DCYF Fiscal

Blue = New Process



\*This step is an optional for Tribes and is added when Tribes need assistance from DCYF in locating a placement. The timelines (7, 21, and 40 days) do not start until the placement is entered in FamLink.

\*\*Tribes can choose to have DCYF validate data.

# Phase 1 Summary of Changes

Implementation January 1, 2024

- Effective July 1, 2023: Licensing incentive to CPA's for new foster homes licensed increase from \$206.26 to \$1000
- Tribal CPA licensed foster homes will be paid directly by DCYF
- Current 4-level rate assessment system replaced by 7-level resource level continuum
- Rate assessments will be based on the documented needs of the child using a specified tool
- Tribes will be given the option to conduct own rate assessments on TPO children using specified tool
  - Rate assessments begin in November of TPO children in foster care, to prepare for transition



# Phase 2 Summary of Changes

## Implementation 2024-2026

- Support services available to all caregivers; unlicensed relative/kinship placements and licensed foster homes
- Rate assessments will be conducted on all TPO children to determine level of support available to the caregiver
- Tribes will be given the option to conduct rate assessments on all TPO children using specified tool
- Tribes will be given the option to provide support services to all TPO children and placement families through a contract with DCYF
- If Tribes choose not to provide their own support services, support services will be provided by the identified contractor in their determined catchment area



# Overall Summary of Changes

Current Practice	New Practice Starting Jan. 1	Potential Tribal Impact
Licensing Incentive for new foster homes: \$206.26	<b>Currently in Effect:</b> Licensing Incentive for new foster homes licensed increases to \$1000	Tribal CPA's can use these funds however they choose: towards agency operations, incentive payment to FH, etc.
Foster care payments: monthly payments are paid directly to CPA to distribute to foster homes.	Foster care payments will be made directly to the foster family by DCYF. CPA's will no longer be paid the monthly foster care payment.	Foster families will require notification and training on this change and how to use the SSPS or SAW payment system to claim monthly payments
Foster care rate levels are currently 4 levels.	Foster care levels are changing from 4 levels to 7 levels which are assessed by support needs of the youth (diagnosis, medications, services).	Foster care payment amounts may change based on diagnosis, medication and services the youth is engaged in.
Rate assessments (R/A) are currently conducted on TPO children placed in licensed foster homes.	Rate assessments will be conducted on all TPO children placed in licensed and <u>unlicensed/kinship placements</u> to determine support level needs of all families. (Phase 2 of project implementation)	Tribes will be given the option to conduct their own rate assessments on all TPO placements (using specified tool). Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impact to CPA structure/staffing/budget in order to conduct their own rate assessment-identification of CPA staff responsible for conducting R/A on all TPO children</li> </ul>
Rate assessments are currently conducted by <u>having a conversation</u> with the foster parent.	Rate assessment will be conducted using a <u>specified "tool" based on a child's diagnosis, medication and services and verified through health care records</u> by the assigned rate assessor.	Consider staff who have legal authority to request medical records of Tribal jurisdiction children when determining the CPA staff who will be completing the rate assessment (Tribal CPA staff/Tribal ICW or Tribal Licensor). Access to medical records from IHS clinics
Rate assessments are required every time a child changes placement to a new foster home.	Rate assessments are conducted within 7 days of placement and not completed again until 6 months after the initial rate assessment, regardless of how many times the child moves.	Consider timelines for completion for all TPO children placed. The rate assessor will have specific timelines to meet, and reassessments will be required every 6 months. Foster parents/CPAs can request an updated rate assessment if/when circumstances change (new diagnosis, new medication, etc.)



# Tribal Considerations of Impacts

- Like all other paid services offered through DCYF, placement would require updating in FamLink for unlicensed caregivers to receive caregiver supports:
  - Do Tribes currently update placements with DCYF for unlicensed relatives who do not need support services (daycare, clothing vouchers, etc.)?
  - Consider access to caregiver supports for placements, if the placement is not updated through TPO
- Do Tribes open Tribal Payment Only on all children under Tribal jurisdiction?
  - Consider access to caregiver supports if children are not open for TPO
- How will the change to direct payments from DCYF to foster parents impact Tribal CPA operations? (CPA's will no longer pay foster parents)
  - Would eliminating Borrowed Beds impact Tribal CPA's and/or tracking of placements?





# Tribal Considerations of Impacts

- Would Tribes want to complete their own foster care rate assessments on **all Tribal Payment Only placements** (not just foster care placements, during phase 2)?
  - Consider impact to CPA/IGA and/or Tribal structure/staffing i.e.: identification of staff who would be responsible for completing the rate assessment (based on diagnosis & services-not just a conversation with the FP) within 7 days of placement-case manager or foster care licensor?
  - Consider if Tribes want to validate R/A's and legal authority to request medical records-case manager/licensor
  - Rate assessments will begin of TPO children placed in licensed foster homes in November 2023, to prepare for transition
- Would Tribes want to provide support services to caregivers of TPO children, by entering a contract with DCYF during phase 2?
  - Consider impact to CPA/IGA and/or Tribal structure/staffing i.e.: identification of staff who would be responsible for providing support services to all caregivers.



# Thank you!

- Questions and Discussion

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