


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove 
Administrator

Re: Temporary funding pool for out-of-home care placements for youth who have been sex trafficked

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to inform county and tribal agencies of a temporary funding pool that will reimburse costs for out-of-home care placements for youth who have experienced substantiated sexual abuse that involved sex trafficking between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

BACKGROUND

Based on funding provided in Act 59, the 2017-19 biennial budget bill, DCF issued a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) to establish a specialized residential treatment program for female youth in non-Milwaukee counties who have experienced sex trafficking. Taking into account the time involved in conducting the RFP process and the start-up time needed if a new program is funded, a new residential treatment program is not expected to come online before January 2019. To assist non-Milwaukee counties and tribes in serving youth who have experienced sex trafficking in the interim, DCF is creating a temporary pool of funds to provide funding to counties and tribes to pay for out-of-home care placement costs for youth who have been substantiated to have experienced sexual abuse that involved sex trafficking. These funds are available to assist non-Milwaukee counties and all tribes in Wisconsin with placement costs for individuals who have experienced sex trafficking in the interim period before a new residential program is established.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

Balance of state counties are eligible to apply for reimbursement of the daily rate for an out-of-home care placement for a youth who has experienced at least one allegation of substantiated sexual abuse that involved sex trafficking. All 11 Federally Recognized Tribes are also eligible to apply for reimbursement of the daily rate for an out-of-home care placement for a finding of youth sex trafficking that is based on similar tribal code or law. Extraordinary payments above the maximum daily rate are eligible if they relate to the youth having been sex trafficked. The youth must have been placed in an out-of-home care placement on or after January 1, 2018. The placement can be new or existing as of January 1st, but costs incurred prior to January 1, 2018 are not eligible for reimbursement from this fund. Placements can be either within or outside of Wisconsin. **Placements in a juvenile correctional institution or detention center are ineligible for reimbursement.**

In order to submit an application for reimbursement of costs, counties must have a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse that includes the sex trafficking descriptor as documented in eWiSACWIS. Dual status child welfare-youth justice cases are eligible for this funding; the requirement for a child welfare substantiation of sexual abuse with the sex trafficking descriptor remains the same. Cases where documentation is not required to be submitted into eWiSACWIS, such as tribal-funded placements of tribal children, must supply 1) tribal child welfare agency documentation of a substantiation or similar finding, based on tribal code or law, of sex trafficking and 2) tribal court documentation noting the out-of-home care placement. Absent tribal code or law related to sex trafficking, tribes may use DCF-issued guidance on substantiating sex trafficking allegations.

Consistent with the intent of this funding, other allegations of substantiated sexual abuse that do not include sex trafficking as a descriptor, including sexual exploitation, are ineligible for reimbursement. County agencies must ensure all required case documentation is complete in eWiSACWIS at the time of application, whether the youth is placed within or out-of-state. Out-of-state placements must additionally include documentation of the placement, including a copy of the contract that details the agreed upon daily rate with the program/ facility. Tribal cases that are not documented in eWiSACWIS must also provide documentation of the daily rate that was paid for the placement.

DCF estimates that \$2.5 million will be available in calendar year 2018 for this temporary reimbursement funding pool. This amount will be split evenly among two cycles:

- First cycle: January 1st to June 30th, 2018
- Second cycle: July 1st to December 31st, 2018

To be eligible for this funding, a substantiation or similar finding based on tribal code or law of the allegation of sexual abuse that includes the sex trafficking descriptor must be made within 60 days of the allegation. If the reimbursement requests exceed the funding allotment in a given cycle, all eligible requests for that cycle will be paid on a prorated basis. Any unspent funds from the first cycle will carry over to the second cycle. Cases where a new allegation of sex abuse that involves sex trafficking was made prior to June 30th but before 60 days allowing for the substantiation decision or similar finding based on tribal code or law may apply for funding in the second cycle.

This funding pool is temporary; funding will cease at the end of calendar year 2018, when funds are exhausted, or when a new sex trafficking specific residential program opens by contract with DCF, whichever comes first. Applications for reimbursement of eligible costs involving a Tribal child can be submitted under this funding pool or the High Cost Pool Fund for Tribal Court Placements and Tribal Subsidized Guardianship, but not both. Eligibility guidelines are subject to review and possible changes after the first six month period.

Counties and Tribes wishing to apply for reimbursement must fill out the attached application, attach any required documentation, and submit it to DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov no later than August 31, 2018 for the first cycle and February 15, 2019 for the second cycle.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator
Administrator's Office
Division of Safety and Permanence
608-422-6901
DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachment: Application for Reimbursement
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/docx/2018-26application.docx>