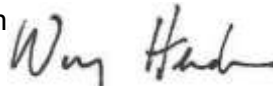


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator  
DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Tribal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

From: Wendy Henderson  
Administrator 

Re: Support for Out-Of-Home Care Placements for Youth Who Have Been Sex  
Trafficked in Calendar Year 2021

## PURPOSE

To continue supporting counties and tribes, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) will renew the temporary funding pool to reimburse costs of out-of-home care placements for female and male youth who have experienced sex trafficking for calendar year 2021. In addition to the renewal of funds, DCF has broadened the eligibility criteria for reimbursement to include more youth in out-of-home care impacted by sex trafficking, which now includes all Youth Justice involved youth under the placement and care responsibility of a non-Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services agency.

## BACKGROUND

Based on funding provided in Wisconsin Act 55, the 2019-21 biennial budget bill, DCF will continue the temporary pool of funds to counties and tribes to reimburse for out-of-home care placement costs for female and male youth who have experienced sex trafficking. These funds are available to assist non-Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services agencies and all tribes in Wisconsin with placement costs incurred between **January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021** for individuals who have experienced sex trafficking. DCF has broadened the eligibility criteria by including all Youth Justice involved youth under the placement and care responsibility of a non-Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services agency who have experienced sex trafficking.

## INFORMATION SUMMARY

County and tribal agencies are eligible to apply for reimbursement of the daily rate for an out-of-home care placement for a youth who has experienced sex trafficking. Eligibility for

reimbursement was expanded to include more youth who have experienced sex trafficking, which now includes all Youth Justice involved youth, including Milwaukee County Youth Justice. Eleven 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. Out-of-home care placement cost must have been incurred on or after **January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021**. The placement can be new or existing as of January 1, 2021. **Qualifying placements include foster care, group homes, or residential care centers in Wisconsin or another state. All other placement settings are excluded.**

In order to apply for reimbursement of costs, counties must have a youth placed in out-of-home care that meet one of the following eligibility categories:

Category	Definition
1	CPS sex trafficking substantiation (non-sexual abuse, sex trafficking descriptor). No CANS sex trafficking indicator.
2	CPS sex trafficking substantiation (sexual abuse, sex trafficking descriptor). No CANS sex trafficking indicator.
3	CANS sex trafficking indicator score 2 or 3
4	CPS sex trafficking allegation (non-sexual abuse; sex trafficking descriptor), that was not substantiated. CANS sex trafficking indicator 1, 2, or 3.
5	CPS sex trafficking allegation (sexual abuse; sex trafficking descriptor), that was not substantiated. CANS sex trafficking indicator 1, 2, or 3.
6	CPS sex trafficking substantiation (non-sexual abuse, sex trafficking descriptor). CANS sex trafficking indicator 1, 2, or 3.
7	CPS sex trafficking substantiation (sexual abuse, sex trafficking descriptor). CANS sex trafficking indicator 1, 2, or 3.

All children in out-of-home care where an agency has placement and has care responsibility are eligible for this funding. Cases where documentation is not required to be submitted into eWisACWIS, such as tribal-funded placements of tribal children or Milwaukee County Youth Justice involved children, must supply, depending on the eligibility category, the following:

- 1) Tribal child welfare or county agency documentation of an allegation/substantiation, or similar finding, based on tribal code or law, of sex trafficking,
- 2) Documentation of experienced sex trafficking through the CANS tool, or other assessment tool approved by the tribal or county agency, and
- 3) Tribal court or county circuit 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 sex trafficking allegations.

Consistent with the intent of this funding, other allegations or substantiations of sexual abuse/neglect 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 and Milwaukee County Youth Justice cases that are not documented in eWisACWIS must also provide documentation of the daily rate that was paid for the placement.

Funding in calendar year 2021 for this temporary reimbursement funding pool will be:

**January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021**  
**Applications are due by April 28, 2021**

If the reimbursement requests exceed the funding allotment in a cycle, all eligible requests for that cycle will be paid on a prorated basis, depending on available funds. Alternatively, if additional funding remains, DCF will work to reimburse agencies for placement expenses that were incurred after March 31, 2021. Finally, DCF will continue to assist in the identification of eligible youth and may contact agencies directly regarding eligible placement expenses. Depending on the outcome of the biennium budget, a second funding cycle may become available.

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](mailto:DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov) **no later than April 28, 2021**.

Contracts for this funding between agencies and DCF need to be signed and returned to DCF **by June 30, 2021** in order to receive payment. Agencies whose contracts are not received **by June 30, 2021**, will not be eligible for reimbursement.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:           Out-of-Home Care Section  
  Division of Safety and Permanence  
  608-422-6921  
  [DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFAHT@wisconsin.gov)

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

ATTACHMENT LINKS:                 Temporary Funding Pool for Sex Trafficking Out-Of-Home  
  Care Placement Application for Reimbursement  
  <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/policy/docx/2021-10i-application.docx>