

Group Home Recruitment Webinar Q&A

What additional licensing flexibility would DCYF be able to give to support programs to make this work?

DCYF can't reduce ratios due to Title IV-E requirements and social distancing guidelines. Licensing is considering all waivers and administrative approvals. These are on a case-by-case basis to ensure child safety while being as flexible as possible.

How do we expect group homes to pay for this within existing resources, considering that they are having to pay sick leave for the staff this pool is helping to replace?

DCYF is examining the possibility of a rate add-on to support group homes that are experiencing an outbreak. We will need to discuss this further with providers and internally.

We are also going through the various stimulus packages passed by the federal government. As a business owner, it will be important for providers to also understand the law and any funding. As we get a better understanding we are happy to brief on this issue. There are no DCYF emergency funds and it is not clear what emergency funding will be available through state or federal sources to fund COVID-related expenses. We are tracking these expenditures. We are also currently taking a loss on any provider that is only doing name and date of birth checks because federal law requires fingerprint checks in order to claim Title IV-E.

Any temporary staff would still need to go through each agency's process to hire, which would take a lot of time. What can DCYF do to help expedite this?

DCYF has already amended background check process to address the closure of fingerprint vendors and other COVID-related issues. Licensing is allowing for some initial training and requirements to be waived on a case-by-case basis. We are committed to working with agencies to help them meet their staffing needs.

How can group homes ensure that additional people coming in to staff temporarily, won't increase the chance of exposure for the members of the home?

By following the CDC and DOH guidance and implementing the proper screening process. [Link: Recommended Guidance for Daily COVID-19 Screening of Employees and Visitors.](#)



If someone signs up for the temporary staffing pool and they have an in-state background check, will they have to get a new one through us?

As long as they are currently employed somewhere that has a cleared and current Name/Date of Birth background check for them, they will be good to go. If this is not the case, they'll need to get a NDOB through DCYF, which we are expediting.

Will there be an emergency or direct phone number set up for group homes to call in order to get answers quickly?

*DCYF's Licensing Division established the COVID-19 24/7 emergency/quarantine Hotline –
844-792-7018; 360-407-1642; dcyf.COVID19groupcarerresponse@dcyf.wa.gov*

Also, could you address the centralized location that could serve for a placement option for BRS kids who run or test positive? I was told this location would be for several different populations of kids.

*While we all are required to follow the DOH guidance regarding possible COVID-19 exposure – **Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) Guidance for Foster Care Group Home Facilities, Recommendations for Homeless Shelter Facilities during a COVID-19 Outbreak, Recommendations for Community-Based Facilities during a COVID-19 Outbreak** we could face a need for emergency COVID-19 related placement for children/youth who had an exposure, tested positive and/or are well. DCYF is in the process of establishing emergency placement sites. Stay tuned for more info. Also, DCYF is collaborating with Department of Commerce, DOH and Counties' Executives supporting the Counties establishing license exempt community-based COVID-19 quarantine and isolation facilities for children and youth. More information to come soon.*