

D.S. Compliance

2023-25 Decision Package

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is building a proposal to bring the agency into compliance with the settlement agreement reached with plaintiffs in *D.S. v. Washington State DCYF*, a federal class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of youth in the state's foster care system. In the agreement, DCYF promises to implement new statewide models for supporting youth in foster care and their families to promote stable placements and long-term wellbeing for children and youth.

The D.S. Settlement Agreement also requires DCYF to conduct a stakeholder process that may impact the agency's next steps and the resources required to implement the agreement. The resources requested in this decision package may change in response to the stakeholder process and the implementation plan submitted to the court.



Components Must Include

Cost

Emerging Adulthood Housing Program – DCYF proposes a statewide expansion of the Adolescent Transitional Living Pilot to provide housing and case management support for youth ages 16-17.	\$4.926M
Professional Therapeutic Foster Care – DCYF proposes creation of a contract and licensing category for family foster homes with specialized training and competency in working with children and youth with high mental and behavioral health support needs.	\$5.208M
Statewide Hub Home Model Program – DCYF will expand and adapt the Hub Home program to serve children and youth with high levels of behavioral support needs statewide.	\$4.497M
Revising Licensing Standards – DCYF will engage in a negotiated rule-making process to make foster care placements more developmentally appropriate and flexible to meet individual youth's needs.	\$1.650M
Family Group Planning – DCYF proposes to empower parents and youth in decision-making in child welfare case plans by utilizing independent facilitators in shared planning meetings.	\$10.905M
Referrals and Transitions – DCYF will update referral and transition protocols, facilitate contact and visitation when youth change placements, and elevate youth voice by allowing youth to develop their own referral narratives.	\$4.542M
Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) – DCYF will conduct assessments every 90 days when youth are placed in QRTP settings.	\$2.126M
Monitoring and Implementation – DCYF requires resources to monitor the implementation of the settlement agreement.	\$1.208M

Cost - \$35.153M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Safely reduce the number/rate of children in out-of-home care
- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care

Contact:

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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES