

DCFS & JJYS Provider Continuum & Medicaid Parity



The Divisions of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and Juvenile Justice and Youth Services (JJYS) is requesting funds to address specific rate disparities, and strengthen the provider continuum that is critical to effectively serve children, youth, and families.

\$2,849,300

DCFS FY 24 Ongoing General Fund Request

\$659,800

JJYS FY 24 Ongoing General Fund Request

Supporting Urgent Shelter Needs & Kin Providers

Licensed foster families and kinship caregivers are an integral part of providing temporary, home-based care for children and youth. This is especially important for emergency shelter needs, or placement for complex youth and sibling groups.

Ensuring children, youth and families have access to essential contracted services will require improved compensation to retain providers. DCFS is proposing a strategic investment of:

✓ Additional funding to support foster care and kin placements, including emergency placement, and a performance based pay structure that supports reunification.

✓ 20% increase in foster care youth special needs funding for clothing, etc.

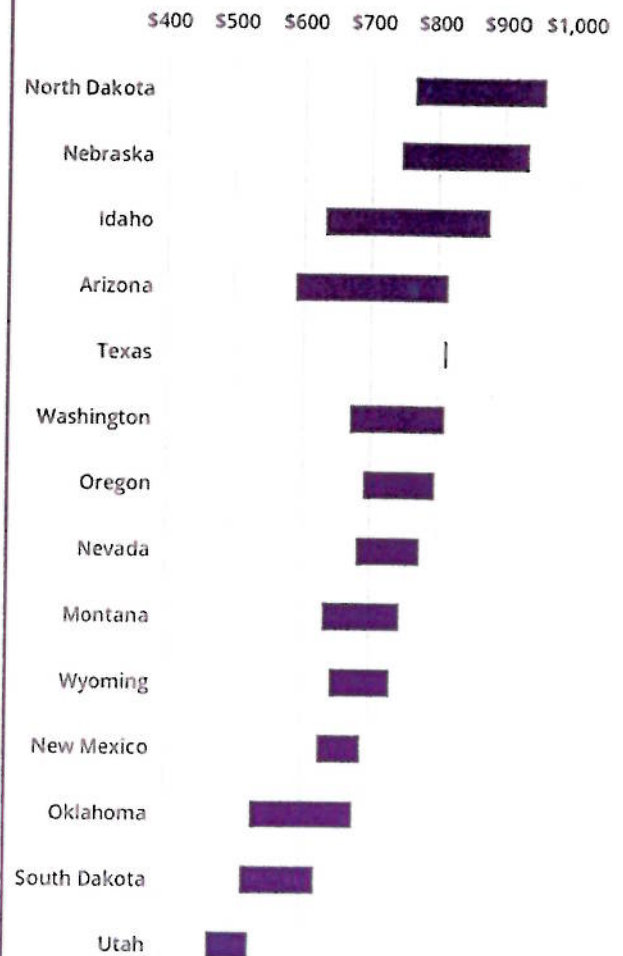
The current special needs funding has remained stagnant for more than 20 years, with youth entering foster care receiving an initial payment of \$163 for all of their needs.

Providing Essential Services

DCFS and JJYS are significantly out of step with compensation for much of the continuum of the contracted services required to effectively serve children, youth, and families.

This has led to difficulty finding and retaining providers for essential behavioral and mental health services. Service providers are currently paid less than the Medicaid or market rates for many of our contracted services.

2022 Basic Monthly Foster Care Provider Rates by State



Rates in the above chart are based on basic foster care reimbursement rates by state for a 30-day period, with the range accounting for lowest and highest based on age of child/youth.

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Addressing Market & Medicaid Rate Disparity

Significant delays in access to services have been a direct result of a lack of parity with Medicaid and market rates.

- The Youth Provider Association (YPA) reported low rates prevented them from providing critical services such as mentoring and respite to children and families, and impacted their ability to maintain staff.
- Quality psychologists have left state contracts due to low compensation for evaluations, leading to a shortage and longer wait times.

In many cases, JJYS has statutory “lengths of stay” of 3-6 months for treatment. An inability to obtain evaluations delays the agency’s ability to engage youth in appropriate treatment, leading to worse outcomes for youth.

35%
Increase in JJYS youth since 2018 with one or more serious mental health concerns

15%
Average clients without Medicaid Coverage

Comparison of State Medicaid Rates to Department Rates for FY 2022

