



WEST VIRGINIA

Child Care

ASSOCIATION

All levels of Foster Care from Intensive Treatment Foster Care to Foster to Adopt are solely dependent on having families who are willing and able to provide services and homes for youth. These youths may be a single individual to large sibling groups of varying ages and intensity of needs.

The struggles for agencies providing these services across the state include: no provider funding for recruitment of needed families, a lack of adequate funding for services and expertise, no funding for adoption services, and the growing need for middle of the night placements. Despite the increase in the cost of living each year, provider agencies have not received rate increases for services therefore forcing them to do even more with less.

## SUPPORT FOSTER CARE

Strengthen support for West Virginia's treatment foster care and foster care providers by founding adoption service and recruitment funding, increasing the funding provisions for treatment foster care parents, and funding incentives for providers and their family that place you in foster homes after midnight.

### The West Virginia Child Care Association supports the following recommendations:

#### 1. Establish Adoption Service Funding

Reimburse agencies for costs associated with adoption case facilitation, which manages documentation throughout the entire court process and individual proceedings in addition to the required foster care case management and/or treatment services provided to the children while in the foster to adopt home.

There is no funding to the provider agency for, or associated with, adoption services they provide.

#### 2. Provide Recruitment Funding

As families adopt, capacity has to be replenished. There is no funding allocated to child placing agencies responsible for replenishing as well as building additional foster home, Treatment Foster Care and Intensive Treatment Foster Care home capacity. Explore any existing recruitment funding efforts being allocated by WVDHHR to non-child placing entities to determine the amount of funding being allocated and the productivity/results being provided. Determine if efforts are being duplicated by the child placing entities for the purposes of replenishing foster care homes.

#### 3. Funding Treatment Foster Care Parents

Treatment and Intensive Treatment Foster Care requires Treatment Foster Care Training, targeted individualized training, smaller caseload sizes due to treatment needs, and additional services provided to families by child placing agencies through increased staff support, adaptive equipment and/or services, and staff expertise training. These are vital to providing treatment and follow National Best Practice standards to service youth in WV and in homes; unfortunately, this is simply underfunded.

[www.wvcca.org](http://www.wvcca.org)

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## The West Virginia Child Care Association supports the following recommendations:



Impact of Lack of Funding to the items above means Foster Care reimbursement rates do not cover providers' costs of doing business, therefore resulting directly in:

- Higher caseloads
- Less recruitment resources
- Less specialized trainings resulting in less expertise
- Foster parent reimbursement rates remain stagnate as the cost of living rises
- Agency Administrative operational costs rise, salaries decrease or remain stagnant
- Workforce becomes less competitive and child placing agencies are competing with private for-profit and other non-profit industries who have higher reimbursements and salary scales
- Infrastructure costs are not met and continue to increase

### 4. Support 'After Midnight Referral'

Fund efforts to increase and support the well-being of children, foster families and multiple child placing agencies' staff who are awakened in the middle of the night to respond to the immediate needs of children/youth being removed from their homes.

Issue: Many agency staff and families are awakened unnecessarily when often DHHR finds alternative placements. This results in foster parents who are less willing to accept emergency late-night placements due to the family's routine being disrupted, does not result in placement, impacts daily schedule and functioning of staff and foster parents, and is taxing to resources due to schedule adjustments of staff and families.

Recommendations include:

- Create a financial incentive for agencies that make placement for the night, after midnight until 8am, to allow time for a home to be secured for placement. The provider will provide an incentive to the foster parents who accept midnight to 8am placements.
- Determine the number of needed placements which came to the WVDHHR's attention after midnight.
- Exhaust and stop looking for kinship placement before decision is made to contact the private providers for that night.
- Once a provider has successfully located a home for placement, immediately notify other providers that a home has been secured to allow families to get rest.

