



## Memorandum

To: Child Welfare Staff

From: Mary Havick, Deputy Commissioner – Child Welfare

Date: May 31, 2022

Re: Emergency Foster Care Service Payment

The Department is diligently working with the provider community to build additional capacity and placement stability to eliminate hotel or office stays and disruptions without a planned move. The implementation of a time-limited Emergency Foster Care Service payment is one strategy we have implemented to support providers and fortify Georgia's continuum of care for children in foster care.

This effort, to date, has been successful as evidenced by placements being secured for 38 youth who were in a hotel or office stay. However, there are approximately 35 youth who still need a placement. The Emergency Foster Care Service Payment has been extended to **June 30, 2022**, and any youth that enters a hotel or office during this time will be eligible for it.

In addition, there are youth remaining in Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) who are ready to stepdown. We must continue to aggressively search for less restrictive settings for them. To support these efforts, the emergency payment is also available for any PRTF step-down placements made in June.

The following is the payment and per diem structure:

- An Emergency Foster Care Service one-time payment of **\$5,000** per youth; and,
- For CCIs: A daily per diem of **\$343.73** per youth – with the agreement that the provider will maintain the youth for **six months** and the provider will not discharge the youth without a planned next placement.
- For CPAs: A daily per diem of **\$343.73** per youth (\$193.73 agency per diem and \$150.00 foster parent per diem) – with the agreement that the provider will maintain the youth for **six months** and the provider will not discharge the youth without a planned next placement.

To request the Emergency Services Funding:

- For the payment of care a RBWO program designation memorandum must be obtained through CCTU. To request the memorandum DFCS staff should go to [www.gascore.com](http://www.gascore.com), complete a MWO request and enter Emergency Foster Care Services Payment in the note section of the request.
- For the one-time payment of \$5,000 to the respective agency, DFCS staff should send an email to James Kizer [james.kizer@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:james.kizer@dhs.ga.gov) and/or Audrey Brannen [Audrey.Brannen@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:Audrey.Brannen@dhs.ga.gov) with the youth's name, DOB, PID (SHINES), and placement agency (including location if there are multiple sites) and date of planned placement.

For a provider to receive the payment, the youth must be in the placement by **JUNE 30, 2022**. Any provider that disrupts any youth in their program between TODAY and JUNE 30<sup>th</sup> will **NOT** be eligible for it.

If there is a planned placement with a CPA or CCI and there is an identified barrier please let us know, so we can mitigate any of those barriers (i.e., OPM/RCCL waivers, home pending approval, pending CPS Screening letter).

If you are experiencing a requested placement disruption, an appropriate placement has not been identified and the provider is still requesting the child be picked up, please contact [opm.leadership@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:opm.leadership@dhs.ga.gov), CCTU on-call ([www.GAScore.com](http://www.GAScore.com)) or Audrey Brannen.

The OPM team and Caregiver Support section truly appreciates your partnership. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to send an email to [opm.leadership@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:opm.leadership@dhs.ga.gov).