

CHILD WELFARE UPDATE

Title:	COVID-19 support to Residential Settings (QRTP and Shelter)
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Effective Date:	03/01/2020
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Background Information:	<p>Department of Human Services (DHS) has provided support to residential providers to assist with the increased costs and needs associated with the public health emergency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided PPE for contracted residential providers and detention centers, including hand sanitizer and face masks. • Additional funding to directly purchase face coverings • Written guidance documents developed in direct consultation with IDPH, which are posted to the COVID-19 section of the DHS website • Waived non-safety related requirements to assist with staffing levels • Daily correspondence as individual point of contact with all residential providers regarding testing, mitigation protocols, and communication with field • Additional funding of \$12.50/day per guaranteed contracted bed to assist with staffing costs due to youth shifting to virtual school (April – May 2020). • Additional funding of \$40.00/day per child to assist with staffing costs due to youth attending virtual school and home visits being disrupted (September 1, 2020-January 22, 2021). <p>Stakeholder Engagement: Residential providers have remained in close contact with DHS regarding the significant impact that COVID-19 has had on staffing levels, as youth remain on campus due to school closures, virtual learning, and reduced home visits. Positive COVID-19 cases in both youth and staff have affected most residential</p>

	<p>providers. Feedback from residential providers have directly influenced the additional daily rate increase and the provision of PPE.</p> <p>Reason for the Change: In an effort to ease the financial burden placed on the residential providers, DHS was able to distribute additional PPE and supplemental funding to offset staffing costs.</p>
<p>What Is Changing:</p>	<p>What Is Changing: DHS continues to prioritize support for our residential providers during the pandemic.</p> <p>Who Is Impacted: DHS, JCS, QRTP and Shelter Care Providers, Juvenile Justice partners</p>
<p>What Is Not Changing:</p>	<p>All QRTP and Shelter Care providers in Iowa continue to operate and accept and serve youth as required by contract.</p>
<p>Expected Benefits:</p>	<p>Financial and other support is expected to allow residential settings, which have been severely impacted by COVID-19, to continue to operate and manage DHS/JCS referred youth as set forth in their contract.</p>