

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM (QRTP) RATE DEVELOPMENT

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, the Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) will be a new designation of placement created by the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) effective July 1, 2024. A QRTP is a program that has a trauma-informed treatment model, is designed to address needs, including clinical needs as appropriate, of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders or disturbances, and meets other requirements outlined in the Act. Title IV-E funding is available if the child's placement is more than two weeks and in a congregate care setting. Criteria for a QRTP include the following:

- Licensed and accredited
- Use a trauma-informed treatment model
- Facilitate and document family involvement and outreach, and how sibling connections are maintained
- Provide at least six months post-discharge, family-based aftercare
- Have registered or licensed nursing staff and other licensed clinical staff (on-site consistent with the treatment model and available 24/7)

DCH developed a staffing model consisting of four employee types to manage and provide adequate care within a QRTP. These employee types are detailed below. In addition, Title IV-E funding will be leveraged as well as Medicaid funding, as detailed in the table.

QRTP Staffing Types SFY 2025		
Job Title	Description	Funding
Social Worker	9am-5pm staff; administrative work; family documentation; post-discharge documentation	Title IV-E (DFCS)
Behavioral Health Aide	24/7 staff; daily childcare; transportation; therapy regimens	Medicaid (DCH)
Behavioral Health Clinician	9am-5pm staff; counseling; therapy design	Medicaid (DCH)
Registered Nurse	24/7 staff; continuous nursing coverage; medication	Medicaid (DCH)

The QRTP rate was developed for SFY 2025: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) salary tables, BLS Employment Cost Index over time (for trend), and Child Caring Institution historical expense reports. This rate is detailed by funding source in the table below and is based on an estimated number of children that could be treated in a QRTP and a budget estimate for SFY 2025. This budget estimate is across all medical assistance programs and will be allocated as the need arises.

QRTP Rate and Budget Estimate					
Bill Code Description	Agency Impact	Per Diem Rate	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Per Diem Rate – Room and Board	DFCS	\$141.36	\$3,954,437	\$1,205,203	\$5,159,640
Per Diem Rate – Service Cost	DCH	\$472.21	\$5,859,695	\$11,375,970	\$17,235,665

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **June 18, 2024 at 11:30 a.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81854263613?pwd=H1aa34fVUCF4R0YNiSRdQOnPQLvbZZ.1>

Meeting ID: 818 5426 3613

Passcode: 700798

One tap mobile

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• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

• +1 719 359 4580 US

• +1 253 205 0468 US

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

• +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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• +1 507 473 4847 US

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- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US

Meeting ID: 818 5426 3613

Passcode: 700798

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **June 25, 2024** to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov.

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on **July 11, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.** at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 13th DAY OF JUNE 2024
Russel Carlson, Commissioner