

Procedures for the Court

Background:

- The Family First Preventative Services Act (FFPSA) was passed by Congress in 2018. The FFPSA changes what types of residential placements are reimbursable by the federal government. Prior to FFPSA, DJS was able to be reimbursed through Title IV-E funding for most group homes/foster care type placements.
- The new FFPSA, effective October 1, 2019, will require that group home placements must be quality, appropriate settings to qualify for Title IV-E reimbursement.
- The type of placement that will qualify for reimbursement will be known as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP).

What is a QRTP?

- For a group home/residential placement to be designated as a QRTP, it must meet the following qualifications:
 - Utilizes a trauma-informed treatment model that include service of clinical needs.
 - Meets the treatment needs of the child as determined by an assessment within 30 days of placement.
 - Staffed by a registered or licensed nursing staff that are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
 - Facilitates outreach and engagement of family members.
 - Must provide discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for at least 6 months.
 - Must be licensed by the State and accredited by at least one of the following:
 - The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.
 - Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.
 - Council on Accreditation.

DJS QRTP Process:

- For every child placed in a QRTP, a DJS Case Management Specialist (CMS) must ensure that a qualified individual¹ assesses the youth within 30 days of the admission to ensure the child's needs are being met.
- At the start of each placement in a QRTP, the CMS will notify the court, and request the court consider the assessment, determination, and documentation made by the qualified individual. The court-order must approve or deny, in writing, the reasons for the approval or disapproval of the continued placement of a child in a QRTP within 60 days.

Current QRTPs in MD that Serve DJS Youth:

- QRTPs in the state have yet to be determined by the FFPSA "Title IV-E Prevention Services (Family First) Clearinghouse," however DJS anticipates that the following organizations will likely receive QRTP certification:
 - Board of Child Care High Intensity Group Home
 - VisionQuest Morning Star
 - Rite of Passage Silver Oak
 - Cedar Ridge Therapeutic Group Home
 - Maryland Salem Children's Home

¹ Except as waived under certain conditions, a "qualified individual" is a trained professional or licensed clinician who is not an employee of the State agency and who is not connected to, or affiliated with, any placement setting in which children are placed by the State." 42 USC 675A(c)(1)(D). The State may request that HHS waive the "qualified individual" requirements as part of the title IV-E plan submission thereby allowing the individual to be an employee of the agency and/or connected to or affiliated with a placement setting in which children are placed by the agency. The State's waiver request is pending.