

ILLINOIS YOUTH-IN-CARE TIMELY PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL CARE ACT - HB439

Require DCFS to develop a strategic plan to improve timely access to quality in-state residential, therapeutic, and specialized foster care

FACT SHEET

2023

THE PROBLEM

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has struggled to develop appropriate placements for young people in care with disabilities and severe mental, emotional, and behavioral health concerns. Depending on where a youth is in their intervention, the placement could be with their family, relative or foster home, group home, or residential treatment facility. However, youth that require residential treatment do not and have not had timely access to quality, in-state residential treatment and other evidence-based alternatives, such as therapeutic foster care.

- From 2013 to 2018 more than 500 in-state residential treatment beds for youth in care of the DCFS with serious and ongoing mental health needs were eliminated.
- Development of evidence-based alternatives to residential treatment, such as therapeutic foster care, has not met the need caused by the eliminated beds.
- Quality residential treatment, evidence-based therapeutic foster care, and specialized foster care are critical components of the system of care for youth in the care of the Department



THE SOLUTION

Require the Department of Children and Family Services to **develop a strategic plan that would comprehensively address improving timely access to quality in-state residential care, evidence-based alternatives, and specialized foster care** for youth with significant emotional, behavioral, and medical needs.



Cook County
Public Guardian



Illinois
Collaboration
on Youth



GET MORE INFO

CALL TO ACTION

Support HB439 requiring DCFS to develop a strategic plan to improve timely access to quality in-state care.

The Cook County Public Guardian is the court-appointed attorney and guardian *ad litem* for approximately 7,000 children and youth with open cases in Cook County due to allegations of abuse, neglect, or dependency. Visit publicguardian.org.

ICOY promotes the safety, health, and success of Illinois' children, youth, and families by acting as a collective voice for policy and practice, and by connecting and strengthening the organizations that serve them. Visit ICOYyouth.org.

For questions please contact

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