

May 22, 2020

HVSA Home Visiting Programs –

As we look ahead to a long weekend, we are also reflecting on the continued commitment, strength and flexibility of the home visiting field over the last two months. The willpower and strength demonstrated may feel surprising, especially as we all wonder some days how we got through another day of the pandemic. However, the response of the home visiting field is a clear depiction and demonstration of the dedication, family-centered and strengths-oriented work that you have been doing for the past several years and for some, decades. We have come a long way since first learning about COVID-19 and while our world has and will continue to change, we continue to be inspired by the perseverance of supervisors, home visitors and families as we continue to move through this pandemic. In this weekly email, we will not address any specific questions, instead, we focus on statewide and DCYF specific COVID-19 responses related to budget and contracts.

On May 13, Gov. Inslee through the Office of Financial Management (OFM) issued a directive to state agencies directing a freeze on:

1. Hiring not related to public safety or other non-discretionary activities
2. Signing non-essential personal services contracts
3. Discretionary purchasing of equipment

This directive went into effect May 18, 2020. While we are still learning all the details and implications of this directive, we have not yet identified direct impacts to the HVSA. For SFY20 contracts, invoices with valid program costs, including salaries and benefits, will be paid.

Budget: This week, DCYF, along with all other state agencies, received guidance from OFM to identify operating budget savings options for SFY21. We will work internally and with OFM to complete this budget reduction exercise by June 1. We are in the process of modeling agency reductions for state funds that support DCYF of 15% which equates to \$155 million across the agency. State agency responses will be considered by the governor and the legislature when making budget decisions during a likely upcoming Special Legislative Session. While we will not have final answers to your budget questions at this time, please know we are holding our programs and families in mind as we complete this difficult task. This week, DCYF hosted a stakeholder webinar to discuss the budget process and considerations for DCYF. For those that were unable to attend, the presentation will be posted on DCYF's [Legislative and Federal Relations webpage](#). Please watch for another webinar following June 1, during which DCYF leaders will talk about what budget reduction considerations were submitted to OFM.

Contract Changes Acknowledgement: Finally, the DCYF Contracts Office has been working hard to create an online portal for DCYF contractors who have had to adjust services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of amending all contracts, DCYF is asking contractors to acknowledge that the work outlined in their current contract statements of work have had to be modified. We hope this is a more efficient approach than amending all contracts for the current year. As such, all HVSA-funded home visiting programs will receive an email in the next week asking you to go to this online portal and acknowledge that your organization accepts changes to the current contract due to COVID-19. Changes to this year's contract due to the pandemic include items such as extensions of deliverables, changes to from in-home to virtual visits and modified CQI approaches. If you have any questions when you receive this email, please email home.visiting@dcyf.wa.gov and for additional guidance.

Returning to In-Home Visiting: With June 30 just around the corner, we understand that programs and home visitors are wondering if it will be expected to start in-home visits again in the new contract year. DCYF team members are working with colleagues across the agency who either provide or support contracted services that are provided in the home to develop some common considerations and guidelines for starting in-home services again. Like Gov. Inslee and DCYF Secretary Hunter have indicated, re-engaging in previously normal activities will be like turning a dial with many considerations, not like flipping a switch. Communication will be forthcoming in June and will align with the governor's phased plan for reopening Washington.

As we continue to move forward through these challenging times and begin to make tough decisions, we are reminded of the importance of pausing, taking deep breaths and holding self-compassion for ourselves, our families and our communities. We hope you find time for rest and to hold yourself with kindness over this holiday weekend. Thank you for being our partners in this incredibly important work.

As a reminder, all of the prior weekly emails and up-to-date responses to FAQs are posted on the DCYF home visiting [coronavirus webpage](#).

Office Hours, Listening Sessions and Upcoming Webinars:

We will continue to host weekly office hours including this coming Wednesday, May 27. You should have received a calendar invite from the HV inbox with an updated link.

[HVSA Open Office Hours: COVID -19 WebEx meeting](#)

Wednesday, May 27, 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Meeting Number/Access Code: 282 708 073

Meeting Password: zhZAYMMW736

Join by Phone: 360-810-3022

Listening Sessions

Listening Sessions will not take place next week (5/25 – 5/29) but will pick up in June, offering more options for both Home Visitors and Supervisor groups. Sessions are not continuous and can be joined anytime without prior participation, the sessions intend to offer a safe space to acknowledge and share as a home visiting community. We encourage you to join as many sessions as you find helpful! Please follow the [link](#) for the desired date to register. A confirmation email from Zoom will be sent with the meeting information.

For those that have already joined a session in the past, please follow this link for a quick survey:

[Listening Session Survey](#)

Performance Measures Webinars by Model

The purpose of these webinars is to present and discuss the current year's model-specific performance data and next years' metrics and incentives.

PAT Performance Measures Webinar:

Tuesday, May 26, 2:30-4 p.m.

<https://wadcyf.webex.com/wadcyf/j.php?MTID=m621e7d39a0561119363d63dd3136345d>

Meeting Number/Access Code: 283 084 218

Password: 35b7gVmmY4S

Join by Phone: 360-810-3022

Portfolio Performance Measures Webinar:

Wednesday, May 27, 2:30-4 p.m.

<https://wadcyf.webex.com/wadcyf/j.php?MTID=m54a610fffb080db942118a0ad381d42b>

Meeting Number/Access Code: 287 692 242

Password: gTmuQd32zP9

Join by phone: 360-810-3022

Thank you for all you do for the children and families in Washington.

The Home Visiting Team



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

