

Sacramento County Department of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS)

Mental Health Provider Minimum Qualifications (MQ):

Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC)

Open Enrollment

Sacramento County DBHS, in conjunction with state wide continuum of care reform (CCR) efforts, and in accordance with the implementation of statewide changes associated with the Katie A v. Bonta settlement, has developed the following minimum qualifications (MQ) required for current Foster Family Agencies (FFA) to request from DBHS, a mental health contract to provide Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) and other specialty mental health services for youth in their care. TFC services are provided to children and youth who require intensive and frequent mental health support in a one-on-one environment. The Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) service model allows for the provision of short-term, intensive, highly coordinated, trauma-informed and individualized Specialty Mental Health Service (SMHS) activities to children and youth up to age 21 who have complex emotional and behavioral needs and who are placed with trained, intensely supervised, and supported TFC parents.

The TFC parent serves as a key participant in the therapeutic treatment process of the child or youth. The TFC parent, under close supervision by a licensed mental health professional employed by the FFA, will provide trauma-informed therapeutic interventions that are medically necessary for the child or youth as outlined in the client plan. The SMHS service activities provided through the TFC service model assist the child or youth to achieve client plan goals and objectives; improve functioning and well-being; and help the child or youth to remain in a family-like home in a community setting. TFC services are intended to prevent and reduce the use of residential, inpatient, or institutional care.

TFC Service activities include:

Plan Development (limited to when it is part of the CFT): The TFC parent will participate, as a member of the CFT, in the care planning, monitoring and review processes.

Rehabilitation: The TFC parent will implement in-home trauma informed practices, which are recovery- or resiliency-focused service activities identified to address a mental health need in the client plan.

Collateral: The TFC parent will help meet the needs of the child or youth in achieving his/her client plan by reaching out to significant support person(s) and providing consultation and/or training for needed medical, vocational, educational or other services to assist in better utilization of Specialty Mental Health Services by the child or youth.

Primary mental health services are to be provided by the Specialty Mental Health Provider to whom the youth is currently receiving services. If the youth is not linked, and is in need of primary mental health services, the Foster Family Agency may provide non-TFC mental health related services. Foster Family Agencies that opt-in to becoming a primary mental health provider, must be pre-approved by the county and have the capability to provide specialty mental health services, including Mental Health Services, Medication Support, Case Management and Crisis Intervention.

Upon meeting all the MQ's below, an FFA may request a mental health contract with Sacramento County DBHS in order to be reimbursed for TFC and other specialty mental health services provided during a youth's foster care stay, via the beneficiary's Medi-Cal EPSDT entitlement. All contracts begin upon execution of a contract and continue until June 30th of the current fiscal year.

Foster Family Agencies requesting a TFC Contract with Sacramento County DBHS, can respond to this TFC Open Enrollment process by contacting: Korlany Roche (rochek@saccounty.net/916-876-1254) for further questions and submission of completing the minimum qualifications.

Sacramento County DBHS TFC Minimum Qualifications:

1. Must have completed the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Resource Family Approval (RFA) certification process.
2. Must be currently providing care/support for Sacramento County foster youth (Probation or Child Welfare) or have served a Sacramento County foster youth in the last 6 months.
3. Homes serving Sacramento County foster youth (Probation or Child Welfare), must be located within Sacramento County.
4. Must have program approval by the state to provide Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC).
5. Must have at least one Therapeutic Foster Care qualified home, with foster parents recruited, trained and available to care for a youth.
6. Must have a letter of recommendation from Sacramento County Probation or Sacramento County Child Welfare (CPS) Department/s, dated within the last month prior to enrollment request.
7. Must provide evidence of financial stability, per Sacramento County guidelines by meeting minimum score (items 1 a, b, and c) criteria:
 - a) Submitted (independent audit) Financial statements will be rated on:
 - a. Liquidity ratios
 - i. Current (current assets divided by current liability)
 - ii. Quick (equal to cash plus government securities plus accounts receivable divided by total current liabilities)
 - b. Leverage ratio: Debt ratio (total liability divided total assets)
 - c. Working capital: Total current assets minus total current liabilities
8. Must be able to meet the following staffing requirements for TFC services:
 - a) Licensed clinical head of service (Ph.D., LMFT, LCSW, etc.) for clinical oversight/supervision
 - b) Quality Management/Quality Improvement staff for continuous quality improvement and Medi-Cal billing/claiming integrity
 - c) TFC parents who meet the minimum qualifications as outlined by Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

Foster Family Agencies opting into primary mental health programing must be able to meet the following staffing requirements for primary mental health services:

- a. California Board Certified Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist on staff or on contract
- b. Licensed clinical head of service (Ph.D., LMFT, LCSW, etc.)
- b) Designated quality management staff for continuous quality improvement and Medi-Cal billing/claiming integrity
- c) Clinical oversight/supervision manager
- d) Additional clinical staffing requirements as stipulated by California Department of Health Care Services

9. Must have the ability to become Medi-Cal certified.

10. Must have the technology infrastructure in place, per Sacramento County DHHS guidelines (<http://www.dhs.saccounty.net/BHS/Avatar/Pages/GI-Support.aspx>), to successfully bill and claim Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS), using Sacramento County Avatar.