



**To:** All Milwaukee County Congregate Care Providers and Individuals interested in opening a new Group Home

**From:** Bridget Chybowski, DMCPD Deputy Administrator

**cc:** Division of Safety and Permanence Child Welfare Licensing Section; Wraparound Milwaukee; WAFCA; SaintA; Children's Wisconsin Community Services, Professional Services Group

**Date:** May 12, 2021

**Re:** Suspension of DMCPD Statements of Support for New Group Homes

This memo is to inform Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPD) community partners and existing congregate care providers that DMCPD is not currently issuing statements of support for new group homes. A statement of support that a proposed additional placement resource is needed is part of the [Needs Determination Process](#) under DCF 57.485(2) that must be completed before an applicant may submit a license application to open a group home.

Currently, there are over 40 group homes in Milwaukee County and the locations continue to have the capacity to accept DMCPD youth and youth from other Wisconsin counties. In addition, the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) promotes strategies to prevent youth from entering out-of-home placements and encourages placement of youth in family-based settings when out-of-home placements are warranted. The law narrows the use of congregate care placements to youth who require a high level of care due to certain treatment needs.

Existing providers may request a statement of support from DMCPD Ongoing Services Section when needed to renew their Child Placing Agency, Treatment Foster Home and/or Group Home licenses.

Individuals may request to be put on a waiting list in the event group homes are needed for Milwaukee County. Individuals should email their name, telephone number, email address and type of congregate care setting they are interested in opening to DMCPD New Business email address: [DCFMBDMCPDNewBusiness@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFMBDMCPDNewBusiness@wisconsin.gov).