


ISSUE DATE June 8, 2022	EFFECTIVE DATE July 1, 2022	NUMBER 3350-22-01
SUBJECT Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network Unit of Service Payment Rates and Programmatic Changes		BY  Jonathan Rubin, Deputy Secretary Office of Children, Youth & Families

SCOPE:

County Commissioners and Executives
County Children and Youth Administrators
County Children and Youth Fiscal Officers
Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators Association
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services
Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network Affiliate Agencies
Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network Prime Contractor

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to advise County Children and Youth Agencies (CCYAs) and Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) affiliate agencies of adjustments to payment rates for SWAN direct units of service for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022-2023 and tentative payment rates for SFY 2023-2024. This bulletin rescinds and replaces the payment chart on page 3 of the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) Bulletin 3350-21-02, titled "Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network Unit of Service Payment Rates and Programmatic Changes" and replaces the unit costs OCYF Bulletin "Fiscal Year 2023-24 Children, Youth and Families Needs-Based Plan and Fiscal Year 2022-23 Implementation Plan Instructions."

The programmatic changes outlined in previous SWAN Unit of Service Payment Rates and Programmatic Changes bulletins remain in effect, while this bulletin includes the additional programmatic change:

- Establishes Family Matching unit of service.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

ORIGIN OF BULLETIN:
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BACKGROUND:

The SWAN program is overseen by the Department of Human Services (DHS), OCYF, and is managed by a prime contractor, currently Diakon-SWAN, LLC. SWAN is designed to support and enhance timely permanency for children in Pennsylvania who are in the custody of CCYAs and to provide post-permanency support services to families. To accomplish this important work, OCYF works with a prime contractor who subcontracts with approximately 80 private adoption agencies, referred to as SWAN affiliates, across the state.

The SWAN program offers eight direct services to enhance permanency services and to expedite permanency for children in foster care. SWAN affiliate agencies provide the services as requested by the CCYAs.

CCYAs make referrals to the SWAN program for the following direct services: family profile and addendum, child profile and addendum, child preparation, child-specific recruitment, child placement and adoption finalization. Affiliate agencies make referrals to the SWAN program for the family matching service.

SWAN also provides post-permanency services to any Pennsylvania family who has adopted from the child welfare system, as well as to families who have adopted through private or international arrangements. In addition, SWAN post-permanency services are offered to families who have provided permanent legal custodianship or formal kinship care to a child from the Pennsylvania child welfare system. Unlike the direct services noted above, CCYAs nor affiliates request post-permanency services. Rather, families self-refer for those services by contacting the SWAN Helpline at 800-585-7926.

DISCUSSION:

OCYF required the SWAN prime contractor, which began a new contract in October 2015, to collect time and cost data from all SWAN affiliate agencies throughout the life of the current SWAN prime contract.

OCYF convened a time-limited SWAN Rates Workgroup, comprised of SWAN affiliate staff, who examined the current process used to collect time and cost data and make recommendations on how to best determine appropriate payment rates for completed SWAN services. As a result of the workgroup's recommendations, changes were made to the existing time and cost tracking utility and a new comprehensive cost analysis survey was used to obtain the administrative costs (indirect, overhead and caseworker rates) associated with completing SWAN services. A new time and cost tracking utility was implemented in Summer 2018, and as of February 1, 2019, all SWAN affiliate agencies must use the new time and cost tracking utility.

Based upon the actual time and cost data collected from SWAN affiliate agencies during calendar year 2021 and information obtained through the administrative cost analysis survey, OCYF is adjusting payment rates for county-referred direct services for SFY 2022-2023 and tentatively adjusting payment rates for SFY 2023-2024.

The following SWAN rates will be effective for all services referred on or after July 1, 2022. Payment for any services referred prior to July 1, 2022, will be paid at the rate established for the year in which the referral was made.

Unit of Service		SFY 2022-2023 and Tentative SFY 2023-2024 Payment Rate	Additional Changes
Child Preparation		\$2,900	None
Child Specific Recruitment (CSR)		\$2,800	None
Child Profile		\$2,100	None
Child Profile Addendum		\$1,650/SFY	None
Family Profile		\$2,950	None
Family Profile Addendum		\$1,850/SFY	None
Placement		\$2,300	None
Finalization		\$2,400	None
Finalization Extension		\$1,400	None
Post-Permanency Services	Advocacy	\$500/month	None
	Support Group	\$500/family/quarter	None
	Respite	Up to \$300/month	None
Family Matching*		\$2,400	None
Family Matching Extension*		\$1,200	None

*Family Matching unit/Extension is an affiliate referred unit of service.

Price adjustments for SWAN units of service will be determined by OCYF on an annual basis and communicated in an annual SWAN Unit of Service Payment Rates Bulletin, as well as in the annual Needs-Based Plan and Budget Bulletin (NBPB). Established rates will be based upon actual time and data submitted by SWAN affiliate agencies to the SWAN prime contractor.

These price adjustments for SWAN units of service are being made within the existing contract and will not negatively impact CCYA SWAN service requests. The SWAN prime contractor will make the necessary changes to the SWAN portal for the rates paid for individual services, but the number and type of services requested by CCYAs will remain the same.

PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES:**Family Matching -**

Family Matching is a new unit of service to the SWAN program, but the practice of family matching is not new to the permanency continuum. This is an affiliate referred unit of service and not included in CCYAs NBPB. Families waiting to be matched with a child need extensive engagement and development. The Family Matching unit includes ongoing efforts in these areas as well as activities to identify a child for placement with an eligible SWAN family through implementation of a Family Matching Plan. This will be an affiliate referred, 8-month unit of service with the ability for the affiliate to refer for a 4-month extension at half the price of the unit. The referral can only be made by the affiliate agency that completed the SWAN Family Profile. Affiliates may invoice the prime contractor when the county agency approves the match and is ready to proceed with transitioning the child to the selected pre-adoptive home.

Eligible families must have a current approved SWAN Family Profile and meet the following criteria:

- Not have an identified child for adoption.
- Have current, approved SWAN Family Profile.
- Be registered with the Resource Family Registry as an adoptive family.
- Interested in Pennsylvania children awaiting adoption and who are in the custody of a county.
- Meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - Searching for children over the age of ten years.
 - Searching for children with significant medical, physical, cognitive or emotional challenges.
 - Searching for sibling group.