
**Report to
The Vermont Legislature**

Specialized Child Care Transportation

In Accordance with Act 74 Section E.318.1

Submitted to: House Committee on Appropriations
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

Submitted by: Sean Brown, DCF commissioner

Prepared by: Sheila Duranleau, Director of Programs
Child Development Division

Report Date: November 1, 2021



**AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES
Department for Children and Families**

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Part 1: Status of DCF's Statewide Transportation Contract Initiative	3
Part 2: Specialized Transportation Services	3

Introduction

The Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Act provides that, on or before November 1, 2021, the Department for Children and Families (DCF) shall submit a written report to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Human Services; and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare outlining the outcome of the statewide transportation Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding transportation services. The report shall identify the average number of children served under the Specialized Transportation Services program by region in fiscal year 2021 and the average number of number of children served under the Specialized Transportation Services program by region in July, August, and September 2021.

This report is an update on the status of the statewide transportation contract and provides the data requested on children served under the Specialized Transportation Services program.

Part 1: Status of DCF's Statewide Transportation Contract Initiative

DCF issued an RFP on March 8, 2021, for a statewide contract to provide transportation to children served by the Family Services Division (FSD), primarily for children in DCF custody, and by the Child Development Division (CDD) for children who attend specialized childcare programs. Both divisions have historically had multiple contracts with a variety of vendors and the goal was to streamline this process and achieve savings by having only one vendor.

The RFP closed on April 30, 2021. DCF received only one proposal from Youth Transit Authority who is based in Pennsylvania but provides transportation services in many states on the east coast. FSD has had a contract with YTA since 2017 for "enhanced transportation" services. For FSD, there are 3 types of transportation services: secure transportation for justice-involved youth, enhanced transportation for youth in crisis, but do not warrant secure transportation and standard transportation for youth placed in foster homes or other types of residential facilities who need transportation to medical appointments, childcare, school, or visitation with non-custodial parent(s).

During the review process it became apparent that DCF is unable to move forward with a statewide transportation contract without reliable data on current level of transportation services, including point of origin, destination, mileage, number of children transported, etc. Given FSD's limited data capacities, DCF was unable to provide information the bidder felt was necessary in order to move forward with negotiations.

During negotiations on the statewide transportation contract, DCF explored with YTA the option of taking over all of FSD and CDD transportation contracts and becoming the Administrator and Central Dispatch. YTA would then gather the data necessary for DCF to perform an analysis regarding the most efficient, safe, and effective way to transport children in both CDD and FSD. DCF plans to move forward with this data collection and maintain services under existing contractors using CCDF discretionary funds appropriated through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Part 2: Specialized Transportation Services

The Child Development Division (CDD) pays for transportation to and from childcare for children whose families are determined eligible and meet the criteria through the CDD Child Care Financial Assistance Program. Eligible children include those in open cases with the Family Services Division (Protective Services); children whose families experience short-term stress (Family Support Child Care Services); and children with a Special Health

need, including children with developmental delays.

The Regional Children's Integrated Services (CIS) Child Care Coordinators work directly with the child's family, childcare program, and transportation vendors to ensure children are safely getting to and from their childcare programs.

The current CDD transportation contracts started in October 2019 and expired on June 30, 2021. The CDD amended the contract agreement for an additional six months (ending December 2021) while exploration of the statewide transportation contract continued. Transportation vendors receive a per child payment rate of \$528.00 per child, regardless of the number of times a child gets transportation within the month. The vendor has a maximum number of unduplicated children to serve monthly to stay within the contract cap.

The table below reflects the number of unduplicated children who received rides by vendor for SFY2021 (with a breakout of July-September) and for July – September for SFY2022.

AHS regions, Transportation Vendors FY 21		July	Aug	Sept	October 2019-June 2021
Kingdom Child Care Connection St. Johnsbury (Maximum ridership per contract 20 unduplicated children)	# Of unduplicated children weekly/monthly	2020: 18	2020: 15	2020: 17	Average # of unduplicated children weekly/monthly: 17
		2021: 26	2021: 29	2021: 32	Average # of one-way rides provided monthly: 485
Addison Parent Child Center Middlebury (maximum ridership per contract 15 unduplicated children) * Child Cares Transportation was closed due to COVID until September 20	# Of unduplicated children weekly/monthly	2020: 0	2020: 0	2020: 8	Average # of unduplicated children: 15
		2021: 19	2021: 19	2021: 16	Average # of one-way rides provided monthly: 365
Green Mtn Community Network Bennington/Brattleboro (maximum ridership per contract 22 unduplicated children)	# Of unduplicated children weekly/monthly	2020: 18	2020: 18	2020: 17	Average # of unduplicated children: 16
		2021: 19	2021: 16	2021: 15	Average # of one-way rides provided monthly: 295
Good News Garage Chittenden, Barre, Newport, Rutland, Lamoille, Hartford and Springfield (maximum ridership per contract 60 unduplicated children)	# Of unduplicated children weekly/monthly	2020: 20	2020: 31	2020: 30	Average # of unduplicated children: 46
		2021: 59	2021: 58	2021: 59	Average # of one-way rides provided monthly: 1128
Family Center of Washington County Barre (maximum ridership per contract 15 unduplicated children) * Services ended March 2020					Average # of unduplicated children: 15
					Average # of one-way rides provided monthly: 265