

Candice Broce Director

RBWO Minimum Standards FY25 Updates



The *Minimum* Standards

- RBWO Minimum Standards are focused on securing positive permanency, health and education outcomes for children and to reduce risks to their welfare and safety.
- Providers must aim to provide the best care possible for the children in their care; observing the Standards is an essential part, but only a part, of the overall responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of each individual child placed.
- The Standards are presented as "minimum" requirements rather than as best practices. Thus, providers should strive to exceed these minimum requirements.

Tips for Success

- Read from cover to cover at least quarterly.
- Use sections to train staff members frequently to ensure compliance across the agency.
- Develop processes for improvement when deficiencies are identified.
- Remain informed of updates.



Q1: Select your program type.

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



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Q2: What is your RBWO Role?

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



Providers must have and follow their protocol for children who are considered runaways or otherwise absent without permission. The agency protocol should include consulting with the youth's DFCS case manager to develop and implement a youth runaway prevention plan, within 7 days of the youth's return from runaway status.

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



DFCS must be provided with at least a 14-calendar day notice of the need to move a child from a CCI or CPA foster home unless there is an impending threat of harm to the child or others. ILP providers must provide DFCS with a 60-calendar day notice and provide the young adult with placement transition assistance. DFCS County Director should be included on all discharge notices that are provided for youth in your care. DFCS County Director contacts can be found on www.gascore.com homepage.

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



Revised STANDARD 6.21 g

g. Assess the physical home environment to confirm that it is safe and appropriate and that sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

Revised STANDARD 6.21 (g)

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



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 CPAs must ensure that prospective caregivers are drug screened within the 12 consecutive months prior to final approval of the initial home study, per DFCS Child Welfare Policy Manual Chapter 14.1 & 19.25, using a qualified drug testing laboratory.

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



During the first 30 days of placement, providers must assess with the caregivers the necessity of safety gates, safety locks, outlet covers, securing sharps, medications, cleaning supplies, or other items that may pose a hazard or danger based upon the individual child's needs. Youth ages 14 and up should be assessed to determine their level of skill and competence with using sharps and cleaning supplies as a means of gaining independent living skills. The outcome of the assessment must be documented in the child's record along with a plan for ensuring the safety and supervision of youth around these items. Alternatively, providers may have a blanket policy that requires that all sharps, cleaning supplies, and other items that may pose a hazard or danger to the safety or well-being of children be locked up and inaccessible to children and youth. Providers will also assess household items to ensure that Tip-Over hazards are properly secured to prevent harm or injury to children.

Answered: 182 Skipped: 2



The building, grounds and/or campsites must be maintained in a condition to ensure the health and safety of the children served. During the first 30 days of placement, providers must assess the necessity of securing sharps, medications, cleaning supplies or other items that may pose a hazard or danger based upon the individual child's needs. The outcome of the assessment must be documented in the child's record. Hazardous items will not be openly accessible to children and youth. The building and grounds will be kept clean and free from trash, debris, and pests. Ceilings, walls, and floors will be maintained and kept clean and free from graffiti, dirt, or stain buildup.

Revised STANDARD 12.4 (continued)

- a. Smoke alarms must be present and functioning on all levels of the home.
- b. Working Carbon Monoxide Detectors must be installed on the sleeping level of the home.
- c. Providers that have a pool on the grounds or that have access to a pool must have at least one water rescue trained staff present when youth are participating in water activities and must complete a water safety assessment annually.
- d. Youth ages 14 and up should be assessed to determine their level of skill and competence with using sharps and cleaning supplies as a means of gaining independent living skills. The outcome of the assessment must be documented in the child's record along with a plan for ensuring the safety and supervision of youth around these items.

Answered: 180 Skipped: 4



Revised STANDARD 12.16 Item 10

The selection, preparation, and serving of food will be guided by the nutritional, social, cultural, religious, and health needs of the children served.

- 1. Food should be appetizing and attractively served. The dining area should be pleasant.
- 2. Meals should occur at regularly scheduled times. The atmosphere should be relaxed with opportunities for children to engage in conversation. In small group home settings, there should be enough chairs for all the children to eat together.
- 3. Meals should include some of the food preferences of the children of different cultural and ethnic groups
- 4. Children may be encouraged to eat; they may not be forced.
- 5. Snacks should be offered after school and at other times as appropriate.
- 6. Children should have a voice in menu planning.
- 7. Children should be given opportunities to participate, with supervision, in food shopping and preparation.
- 8. Unless there are dietary or therapeutic restrictions, children should be allowed to have more than one helping.
- 9. For those children with special dietary needs, a professional nutritionist or a dietitian must be available for consultation on menu planning, portions, and preparation. The dietitian or nutritionist should be aware of the particular needs of children who have experienced neglect and deprivation.
- 10. For providers who serve more than 12 children and operate a cafeteria, the cafeteria must be inspected by the Department of Public Health annually; results should be made available when requested and should be free of any concerns. The kitchen should be maintained with operable appliances and reasonably clean.

Revised STANDARD 12.16 item 10

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



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For Child Care Worker new hires, providers must request references regarding previous employment with other CCIs and/or other employers where the applicant had a child-caring role. CCIs must ensure that prospective Child Care Workers are drug screened initially, randomly, and as warranted, per DFCS Child Welfare Policy Manual Chapter 14.1 & 19.25 using a qualified drug testing laboratory.

Answered: 179 Skipped: 5



Revised STANDARD 13.3 (b)

a. ("note" will be changed to "a"). Contractual changes such as site address, request for approved program designations, etc. should be made in writing to OPM using the vendor request form and may result in a site review or request for additional information. All vendor request forms should be sent to the Provider Relations Manager.

b. Providers must ensure that renewal documents and/or amendment documents for RBWO contracts are submitted by the deadline provided by OPM. Providers are responsible for ensuring that contract documents are accurate and signed by the appropriate entity.

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



Providers (CCIs and CPA foster parents) must have a written Emergency/Disaster Plan to address largescale emergency situations, including pandemic preparation and response. Emergency situations are defined as anything that will displace children during a statewide or agency disaster. At a minimum, the plan should include Instructions for how CCI staff as well as CPA foster parents are to proceed during an emergency, transportation, medication and record management, ongoing communication, location for the nearest shelter, hospital, police, and fire station. This plan will be reviewed and updated annually and uploaded in GA+SCORE. CCI Staff and CPA foster parents should be trained on the Agency plan. Providers should regularly assess incidents and trends to determine when additional trainings are warranted.

Answered: 176 Skipped: 8



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Questions?





Division of Family & Children Services