

**COVID-19 RESPONSE: EXPANSION OF ACCESS TO TELEHEALTH UNITS****BACKGROUND**

St. Louis County Children's Service Fund (CSF) is aware that the expanding reach of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic has led to partner agencies taking responsible steps to facilitate social distancing strategies, as recommended by public health experts. CSF wants to facilitate these efforts as well as support positive ways to provide service continuity. CSF has multiple units of service that can be delivered through Telehealth modalities, and has recently received requests from funded partner agencies to access the Telehealth units in place of standard in-person services. The current process for requesting access to a new unit takes more than a month to complete, due to the need for internal staff review and board approval.

**ACTION STEPS**

- For the duration of the public health crisis, CSF has implemented the following temporary modifications to standard procedures regarding use of Telehealth units:
  - To allow access to Telehealth units of service for funded partner agencies that do not currently have a particular Telehealth unit approved in their program's contract, but do have the corresponding in-person version of the unit approved, without the need to follow the standard New Unit Request process.
  - To temporarily modify the Activities Included section of all Telehealth units with the following change: "This unit requires interactive telecommunications services such as video conferencing **or telephone**, and that the multimedia communications equipment must, at a minimum, include audio **and video** equipment permitting two-way, real-time interactive communication between patient and practitioner in order to be eligible for reimbursement for all telehealth services."
  - To temporarily modify the Activities Excluded section of all Telehealth units with the following change: "**Telephones**, Fax machines and electronic mail systems do not meet the definition of an interactive telecommunications system."
- These temporary modifications will impact the following units: Individual Therapeutic Counseling (Telehealth); Family Therapeutic Counseling (Telehealth); Non-Therapeutic Counseling (Telehealth); Behavioral Health Diagnostic Evaluation (Telehealth); Psychiatry (Telehealth); Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation (Telehealth); Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (Telehealth); Psychiatry – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (Telehealth).
- CSF's board will revisit these temporary modifications once the public health crisis appears to be under control, to determine whether it is appropriate to return to CSF's standard operating procedure regarding use of all Telehealth units.

Agencies that wish to request access to Telehealth units of service should complete the form that follows this brief, and submit the form to [keepingkidsfirst@stlouisco.com](mailto:keepingkidsfirst@stlouisco.com) and their assigned program officer by email. CSF will make every effort to review and respond to these requests quickly. Please be aware that access to the new unit(s), if awarded, will not change the program's total award amount.



**COVID-19 RESPONSE: ACCESS TO TELEHEALTH UNITS FORM**

(Please check) I verify that for each requested Telehealth unit, the program in question already has the in-person version of the unit approved in the agency’s 2020-2022 Core cycle contract.

(Please check) I understand that this request is for temporary access to the Telehealth unit(s) listed below, and that once the COVID-19 public health crisis appears to be resolved. CSF’s board will revisit these temporary modifications once the public health crisis appears to be under control, to determine whether it is appropriate to return to CSF’s standard operating procedure regarding use of all Telehealth units.

**REQUEST DETAILS**

<b>Agency Legal Name (and DBA if applicable)</b>		
<b>Date Submitted</b>		
<b>Program ID</b>		
<b>Program Name</b>		
<b>Telehealth Unit Request</b>		
<b>Requested Unit Name</b>	<b>CPT Code</b>	<b>Check If Requesting Access</b>
Individual Therapeutic Counseling (Telehealth)	90832.T/90834.T/90837.T	
Family Therapeutic Counseling (Telehealth)	90847.T	
Non-Therapeutic Counseling (Telehealth)	99402.T/99403.T/99404.T	
Behavioral Health Diagnostic Evaluation (Telehealth)	90791.T	
Psychiatry (Telehealth)	99214.T	
Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation (Telehealth)	90792.T	
Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (Telehealth)	90792.1T	
Psychiatry – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (Telehealth)	99214.1T	

