

Continuing Care Safety Association (CCSA): CFS Contracted Agency Associate Partnership

What is the collaboration between Children and Family Services, ALIGN and the Continuing Care Safety Association (CCSA)?

The collaboration between CFS, ALIGN and CCSA is a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing health and safety standards across child and youth facilities. CCSA will provide expert health and safety support, resources and training to help agencies implement comprehensive occupational health and safety measures. This collaboration ensures that all facilities adhere to consistent health and safety protocols, benefiting both the children and youth in care and the staff supporting them.

How are CFS contracted agencies involved?

CFS contracted agencies will be required to become CCSA associates. This involvement includes adopting CCSA's health and safety standards, participating in training programs, and utilizing the resources provided by CCSA to improve their OHS practices. CFS agencies will also be expected to demonstrate compliance with these standards as part of their ongoing contract requirements. Specifically, CFS contracted agencies with current contracts for child and youth facilities will have to align with this requirement. This includes contracts for community group care services, personalized community care services, campus-based care services, and confinement services including secure services and *PSECA* services. Current contracted agencies will have up to 18 months upon notification of contract expectation to become a CCSA associate. Regional contract teams are here to support the partnership process.

For contracted agencies that provide child and youth facilities, is this mandatory?

Yes, partnership with CCSA by becoming a CCSA associate will become a mandatory requirement for all agencies contracted to provide child and youth facilities. This requirement is part of our commitment to ensuring that all facilities maintain the highest occupational health and safety standards and provide a secure environment for both the children and the staff.

Why is this initiative important?

This initiative is crucial for improving the overall safety and quality of care in child and youth facilities. By implementing consistent and robust health and safety standards, CFS and our collaborative partners aim to create safer environments, reduce the risk of workplace injuries and enhance the well-being of both children and staff. This initiative supports better outcomes and fosters a culture of safety and excellence in care.

How is ALIGN involved?

ALIGN is a key partner in this initiative, representing a unified community of agencies that support children and families. ALIGN will assist in the implementation process by providing additional support and guidance to its member agencies, facilitating communication and ensuring that the new health and safety standards are integrated smoothly across the sector.

Is there a deadline for contracted agencies to become a CCSA Associate?

Agencies who are successful in CFS's recent Community Group Care Request for Proposal will have until March 31, 2026 to become a CCSA Associate. Contracted agencies delivering other out-of-home placement services will have an additional 6 months to become a CCSA Associate by September 30, 2026.

What support will be available to agencies during the CCSA partnership process?

Contracted CFS agencies will receive support through various channels, including informational resources, supportive consultations with CCSA, as well as support through ALIGN. Additionally, CFS will provide guidance and resources to help agencies understand and meet the new requirements.

What are the next steps for agencies to comply with the new requirements?

Agencies will need to partner with CCSA and begin implementing the new health and safety standards as outlined by CCSA. CCSA will be in touch with CFS agencies to provide detailed information and support throughout this process. They will guide you through the partnership process and assist with any questions or challenges you may encounter.

How will the new health and safety standards affect the contracting process?

The new requirement of being a CCSA associate will be integrated into the contracting process. Agencies will need to demonstrate their partnership with CCSA and compliance with the occupational health and safety standards as part of their contract application and renewal. This ensures that all contracted agencies meet the required health and safety criteria and maintain high standards of care.