



DCYF Residential Treatment Center in Exeter to be Operated by Family Service of Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE, RI (April 15, 2026) — The [Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families](#) (DCYF) has contracted with [Family Service of Rhode Island](#) (FSRI), a [DCYF Family Care Community Partnership](#) agency, to provide clinical and educational services to adolescent girls at [the residential treatment center being constructed in Exeter, RI](#).

Construction of the facility, which will provide residential interventions designed specifically for girls ages 13 to 18 who require intensive behavioral health treatment outside a hospital setting, will be completed this spring. It is expected to be fully equipped, staffed by approximately 60 full-time professionals and operational in the fall.

“This marks a critical point in the State’s commitment to expanding behavioral health care services and delivering high-quality, trauma-informed care to Rhode Island’s children,” said **Governor Dan McKee**, who has made the well-being of children and families a priority of his administration.

“As longtime partners, DCYF and FSRI have supported thousands of Rhode Island’s children and families through an array of community-based services, including mental and behavioral health services,” **Governor McKee** said. “We know Rhode Island youth who have complex mental health needs are best served in state. This facility will help provide that care.”

The treatment center will include two eight-bed suites, classrooms, activity rooms, indoor and outdoor recreational space, a visitor area and staff offices.

By expanding in-state behavioral health care capacity, DCYF and FSRI will ensure young people receiving residential treatment will remain connected to their communities, noted **DCYF Director Ashley Deckert, MSW MA**.

“Our goal is always to provide the appropriate level of care, for the right amount time, in the least-restrictive setting that best meets each child’s needs,” Deckert said. “This residential treatment center is an investment in a future when Rhode Island children and families will have access to a full continuum of behavioral healthcare close to those who care about them and to community services and supports.”

Hiring of clinical and behavioral health clinicians, nurses and medical support professionals, plus teachers and residential and direct-care staff, will begin shortly. Initial

openings are currently listed on the [Family Service of Rhode Island careers webpage](#) at familyserviceri.org; additional positions will be posted through the spring.

“This project reflects Rhode Island’s commitment to investing in the strength and potential of our young people,” said **Margaret Holland McDuff, CEO of Family Service of Rhode Island**. “At FSRI, we have seen firsthand how the right support, structure and opportunity can transform a young person’s trajectory. We are proud to bring our experience and deep roots in this community to help create a place that fosters resilience, connection, and real pathways forward for the youth and families we serve.”

About Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

At Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families, our mission is to build a system of care where every child grows up in a safe and loving family environment that supports the development of strong, resilient families throughout the state. To fulfill our mission, we believe that family, community and government share responsibility for the safety, protection and well-being of children, emphasizing prevention over intervention through an integrated continuum of care that reflects a partnership between all parties and is culturally relevant. Learn more at dcyf.ri.gov and read our [2025-2030 strategic plan](#).

About Family Service of Rhode Island

Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI) is one of Rhode Island’s largest nonprofit human service organizations, providing a broad range of behavioral health, child welfare, education, housing and community support programs designed to help children, families and individuals thrive. The organization serves thousands of Rhode Islanders annually through more than 30 programs focused on addressing social determinants of health and strengthening families across the lifespan.

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