



Maria Su, Psy.D.
Executive Director



London N. Breed
Mayor

ESSENTIAL SERVICE CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

DCYF has adjusted our Service Area and Strategy based structure to provide flexibility for grantees to provide essential services that meet current needs. Rather than holding grantees to existing strategy requirements DCYF has instead framed all of our work around the following Essential Service categories:

BASIC NEEDS:

DCYF defines **basic needs** as an essential service that helps participants and their families gain or maintain access to childcare, food, water, clothing, technology, internet access and referral services for shelter.

EDUCATION:

DCYF defines **education** as an essential service that helps participants and their families address disparities in academic outcomes. Examples of this service include but are not limited to support for children, youth and their adult guardians/parents for distance learning, reading and/or performing at grade level in core academic subjects, successful transitions during key periods (see Ed Supports Service Area Guide) and/or completion of high school or equivalent.

ECONOMIC STABILITY:

DCYF defines **economic stability** as an essential service that helps participants and their families solidify their economic situation. Examples of this service include but are not limited to maintaining or creating new opportunities for youth to earn stipends, wages and/or incentives and connecting participants and families to financial resources and training.

SOCIAL CONNECTION:

DCYF defines **social connection** as an essential service that helps participants and their families feel a sense of positive connection. Examples of this service include but are not limited to virtual cohort meetings and trainings and virtual events and online gatherings.

WELLNESS AND TRAUMA:

DCYF defines **wellness and trauma** as essential services that help participants and their families learn and sustain practices and habits that help maintain mental health and address the impacts of COVID-19 related and other stresses. Examples of this service include but are not limited to yoga, mindfulness, breathing techniques, healthy eating, connecting participants and families to therapeutic resources, wellness checks and similar forms of outreach.

OTHER:

DCYF has also created an **other** category for grantees addressing emerging needs that fall outside of the other categories.