

This policy is written to clarify the types of financial support that are available to foster caregivers and the circumstances under which consideration will be given for additional financial support.

I. Board payments

The agency pays foster caregivers, for each foster child placed in their home, a board payment, intended to help defray the cost of the foster child's daily living expenses in the home, such as shelter, food, clothing, routine transportation and social activities. The board payment is ~~20.00 per day~~ \$25.00 per day for children ages 0-5, \$30.00 per day for children ages 6-12, \$35.00 per days for children ages 13-18 and \$50.00 per day for the first 90 days for children stepping down from a congregate care setting. Board payments ~~are~~ are issued monthly, for services provided in the previous month. At the end of each month the foster caregiver is required to complete a Board Statement form, which is included in the Placement Packet for an initial placement into the home, and mailed thereafter, on a monthly basis to the foster home. The Board Statement form is needed at the agency, by the 7th of the month, to facilitate timely payment for the previous month.

2. Clothing allowance

It is understood that children and youth entering the foster care system often are without sufficient appropriate, clothing items. To address this issue, at the time of initial removal from the birth family, a Wal-Mart card may be provided depending on need. Foster caregivers may consult with the placing worker regarding this need. With the per diem being ~~\$20.00 per day~~, \$25.00 per day for children ages 0-5, \$30.00 per day for children ages 6-12, \$35.00 per days for children ages 13-18 and \$50.00 per day for the first 90 days for children stepping down from a congregate care setting, the agency expects that routine clothing for foster children be purchased by the foster parent.

3. Medical care

In a vast majority of cases of children in foster care, the child has Ohio Medicaid coverage. The medical card is to be used to cover medical, vision, and dental care, as well as prescriptions, counseling and psychiatric care. Assistance is available to help foster caregivers locate medical providers who will accept the medical card. If a child does not have a medical card, the foster caregiver should work closely with the agency worker so that all health-related services can be pre-authorized, and payment negotiated between the provider and the agency. Emergency medical treatment requires the authorization of the agency. After hours and on weekends foster caregivers should call Help Hotline, ~~330-424-7767~~ 330-424-5715, for authorization. All authorizations for surgery or surgical procedures must be signed by the agency director. The agency cannot reimburse foster caregivers for medical bills paid by foster caregivers, so foster caregivers are encouraged to communicate with the agency when there are questions or problems with the medical card, or with arrangements for services.

4. Transportation

Foster caregivers may apply for mileage reimbursement for any foster child who has a medical card, for transportation to any services covered by the medical card. Foster caregivers should contact the agency's Non Emergency Transportation (NET) worker, to

establish authorization. Thereafter, the foster caregiver will notify the NET worker of the appointment and the purpose, in advance, and complete a mileage form after the appointment, to facilitate reimbursement, at the ~~rate of \$.48 per mile~~ current rate of mileage reimbursement. The agency will consider, upon request, providing foster caregivers with a gas card for reimbursement of transportation expenses needed to provide necessary services to foster children.

5. School expenses

In accordance with state law, routine school fees for IV-E children are waived, when such waiver is requested. With prior agency approval of school athletic and extra-curricular activities, fees and related expenses (e.g. athletic shoes) for these items may be paid by the agency. Foster caregivers should discuss these items, on a case by case basis, with their worker.

The agency will pay up to \$25.00 annually for the cost of school pictures. The agency requires that one picture be provided to the agency for the child's record, and one be provided to the birth family. If the foster caregiver desires more than \$25.00 worth of pictures, they may order additional and pay for them; if the birth parent desires more than the allocated one, he/she would be required to pay for additional.

In accordance with IV-E guidelines, the agency will pay for high school graduation related expenses including: class ring, graduation announcements, senior pictures, gap and gown, prom gown, tuxedo rental. Seniors must be eligible for graduation to receive graduation funds. Discussion with the child's worker ahead of time to develop the graduation expenses budget for the child will ensure clear understanding what the reimbursement amount will be. Receipts are required for reimbursement.

The agency will contribute 100.00 toward the prom expenses of high school juniors.

The agency will pay for application fees for up to two (2) colleges, universities, or other institutions of higher learning per foster child.

6. Other activities, expenses

The agency believes that extra curricular activities contribute to the positive self esteem and social development of children. Foster caregivers are encouraged to discuss with the agency any financial difficulties that may curtail a child's participation in such activities, and what activities may be beneficial to a child.

The agency may pay, in full or in part, subject to agency approval for:

- music lessons • dance lessons
- scouting
- 4-H
- Little League
- other community programs, hobbies, activities as proposed

The agency may pay rental contract fees for musical instruments. In a "rent to own" arrangement, the musical instrument becomes the property of the foster child.

Activity fees are paid from donated funds, require the approval of the agency director, and are subject to the availability of funds.

7. Respite care

Foster Caregivers needing respite should contact their agency worker, who will assist them with respite care arrangements. Foster caregivers receiving respite services arranged by the agency worker will not receive payment of the board rate for the time the child is in respite care. The board rate will be paid to the caregiver providing respite care.

8. Pre-Service and On-going Training Hours

Each foster caregiver is required to complete pre-service training, prior to being certified as a foster home. Once each foster caregiver becomes a certified foster home, the preservice training hour stipend will be paid in one lump sum. The lump sum will be paid to each foster caregiver, at ten dollars per hour, for the total amount of the pre-service training.

After a foster home is certified, each foster caregiver is required to complete ~~40~~ 30 on-going training hours, prior to their recertification. The foster caregivers will not be paid for more than ~~40~~ 30 hours of training during their recertification period. ~~Only on-going training hours, completed in classroom for a duration of one hour or more, will be paid to the foster caregiver at ten dollars per hour.~~ For continuing training, ten dollars will be paid per foster caregiver per training hour successfully completed within a training session that is a minimum of one training hour in duration.

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Approved:



Rachel Ketterman, Director