



National Association of Public
Child Welfare Administrators

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

Basic Family Foster Care Maintenance Rates Survey: *Summary of Findings*

May 2007

Survey Conducted and Report Prepared by NAPCWA for Children's Rights

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APPENDIX

- *Appendix A. NDAS and NRC FCPPP FC Maintenance Rate Tables*

I. Introduction and Background

Many child welfare advocates have long believed that foster care reimbursement rates are inadequate for meeting the needs of children in care and negatively affect the recruitment and retention of foster parents. To address this issue, Children's Rights initiated a project to develop an economic model for establishing adequate and reasonable rates, in collaboration with the Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children at the University of Maryland School of Social Work and the National Foster Parent Association.

The objectives of this collaborative project are to identify how states and/or local jurisdictions currently calculate and establish their basic foster care maintenance rates; to develop a methodology for accurately estimating the costs associated with caring for a child in foster care; and to build an economic model for calculating adequate and reasonable basic foster care rates that can be adjusted according to regional cost-of-living information.

The results of the study and the economic model for establishing basic foster care rates will be disseminated to federal and state policymakers, program administrators, and advocates.

NAPCWA's Role

Children's Rights asked the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA) to conduct a survey of its members to collect information on the rate-setting methodologies currently being used to establish foster care maintenance rates. The information collected would then be used to inform the development of the project's economic model. The NAPCWA Executive Committee agreed to assist the project partners by conducting a survey of state and selected local child welfare directors on the methodology their state or locality currently uses to estimate the costs of providing basic foster care and establishing basic rates.

Foster Care Maintenance Rates and Federal Law Requirements

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act requires states to reimburse foster parents for "payments to cover the cost of (and the cost of providing) food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, liability insurance with respect to a child, and reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation."

Under The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980, states receive federal funding for foster care maintenance costs as long as they meet certain requirements in their state plans. However, federal law does not address how states determine the cost of providing care, what specific items and services are included in the broad categories of reimbursable costs or what methodologies can or should be used to establish reimbursement rates for foster parents. States have the flexibility to set their own rates using their own methods.

Current Rate-Setting Environment

The Child Welfare League of America's (CWLA) National Data Analysis System (NDAS) and the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice and Permanency Planning (NRCFCPPP) have collected the most recent data available on state foster care maintenance rates. A review of the data indicates the wide variability of basic foster care maintenance rates across states; the complexity of most states' rate structures; and the difficulty of making state-by-state comparisons (see Appendix A).

Some states provide supplemental payments, in addition to basic monthly maintenance payments, to cover additional expenses such as clothing, school supplies, incidentals, recreation, respite, liability insurance, educational/ vocational expenses, foster parent training, child care, personal allowance and travel. Again, these items or types of services and the criteria for their reimbursement vary from state to state and in some cases, among jurisdictions within a state.

There is also significant variation among states in the role that governors' offices, state legislatures, and county boards play in setting basic foster care rates. In some states, increases in basic foster care rates are proposed in a governor's budget and approved by the state legislature. In other states, the state legislature is responsible for establishing and setting state foster care rates.

II. Survey Methodology and Data Collection

Survey Design

Upon approval of the NAPCWA Executive Committee, NAPCWA staff designed a survey to collect detailed information for purposes of informing the development of the project's economic rate-setting model. The survey asked for detailed information on the following:

- Current basic foster care rates for children age 2, 9, and 16;
- Whether the jurisdiction utilizes a rate setting methodology defined as the underlying principles, assumptions and cost estimates used to develop a formula by which the jurisdiction's basic foster care reimbursement rate is calculated and set;
- Foster care rate-setting methodologies currently in use;
- Items and services included in the basic rates, reason for inclusion in the rate, and how cost estimates for items and services are calculated;
- Percentage of current rate allocated to each item of service included in monthly rate and how the allocation was assigned;
- Data sources used in estimating costs of items and services included in monthly rate;
- Information on how basic rates are adjusted over time; and
- Provision of liability and damage insurance coverage for foster parents.

The survey was piloted in one state and one county and revised based on input provided by pilot respondents and project partners. Final survey questions were formatted so that the survey could be disseminated, answered, and analyzed using the survey web tool *Survey Monkey*.

Survey Sample

To obtain information on current methodologies used by states to calculate and set basic foster care rates, NAPCWA and the project partners agreed that the survey sample should include the child welfare directors in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Since there are a number of states where child welfare services are administered at the county level, NAPCWA staff determined that it was appropriate to include counties that are responsible for setting their own basic foster care rates in the survey sample. NAPCWA staff contacted all county-administered states by phone to identify states in which counties had foster care rate-setting authority. Colorado, Ohio, and Pennsylvania were the only states in which counties set their own foster care rates. In Nevada, two counties—Clark and Washoe—are able to set their own foster care rates while rates for the remaining counties are set by the state. Ohio sets a ceiling over which rates are not federally reimbursed.

The criteria used to select counties to be included in the survey were:

- Largest county in state based on child population,
- Second largest county in state based on child population, and
- Smallest county in the state based on child population size.

Clark and Washoe County in Nevada were also included in the survey.

Data Collection and Follow Up

The survey was sent to the survey sample on October 23, 2006 using the internet survey tool *Survey Monkey*. The deadline for returning the completed survey was November 13, 2006.

Two weeks before the survey instrument was e-mailed to the survey sample population, a letter from NAPCWA's president was sent to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the counties included in the survey population. This letter described the purpose of the project, NAPCWA's role in developing and conducting the survey, and asked for cooperation in completing and returning the survey by its deadline.

An e-mail reminder was sent to all those who had not completed the survey one week prior to the survey deadline and again one week after the survey deadline. Based on information gathered by contacting states/counties that had not responded by the survey deadline, NAPCWA staff continued to accept surveys submitted past the deadline. The survey was closed as of December 20, 2006.

Response Rates and Limitations

A total of 60 surveys were sent to 50 states, 8 counties, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Twenty-six (43.3%) of the surveys were returned for analysis, which included surveys from 21 states and 5 counties.

Complete responses varied by question. Despite providing a definition for "rate setting methodology" in the survey text (as noted above), some respondents referred to their current basic foster care rate structure (e.g., the rate amounts) as a synonym for their methodology. Other respondents provided only partial data for some survey questions.

Data Analysis

The data collected by the survey were summarized and reported in the Survey Findings section of this document on a question-by-question basis. Exceptions to this process were made when a respondent clearly provided information for one question in response to another question. In these few instances, the information was added to responses to the more appropriate question.

III. Survey Findings

Foster Care Rate-Setting Methodologies

The major objective of the survey was to obtain information on the methodologies used by states to calculate and set their current basic family foster care reimbursement rates. The survey asked states and selected counties if they used a methodology or formula to calculate and set their current rates and if so, to provide the underlying principles, assumptions, and cost estimates used to develop the formula by which rates are calculated and set. Project partners specifically wanted to understand in detail how rate-setting methodologies incorporated the following variables:

- Specific cost items included in the basic rate;
- How states or counties decide on the specific cost items and services that are included in the basic rate;
- Definition of the costs included in the basic rate;
- How cost estimates for these items were made;
- Source(s) used to estimate costs;
- Percentage of the total rate each cost item is assigned;
- Justification for assigning a specific percentage to each cost item; and
- Other pertinent information or details that help to explain how the state/jurisdiction determines its basic family foster care maintenance rates.

Department or Agency Responsible for Calculating Basic Foster Care Rates

Survey participants were asked to identify the department or agency that was responsible for setting basic foster care rates for their state or county. Twenty-three jurisdictions provided information. Of the 23 survey participants who provided this information; 12 reported that their state or county child welfare department or agency was responsible for calculating and setting rates, 10 reported that their human services department or agency was responsible and 1, North Carolina, reported that the state general assembly assumed this responsibility. None of the respondents reported that calculating basic foster care rates was the responsibility of any state department outside child welfare or human services.

Table A
**Department/Agency Responsible for Setting
 Basic Foster Care Reimbursement Rates**

	State or County Child Welfare Agency	State or County Human Services Department	Other
Number of Respondents (n = 23)	12	10	1

States/counties who responded: AK; CA; CT; DE; FL; ID; KY; ME; MN; MT; NC; ND; NH; OH; OK; RI; SC; SD; TX; WY; Denver County, CO; Teller County, CO; and Allegheny County, PA

Source: Survey Question 6

Methodology for Setting Basic Foster Care Rates

Survey respondents were asked whether their jurisdiction used a “methodology” to set basic foster care reimbursement rates. The survey explained that the term methodology referred to “some sort of formula used to establish the estimated costs of providing basic family foster care.” Eleven (42.3%) of 26 survey respondents (AK; CT; KY; ME; MN; OK; RI; TX; WY; Teller County, CO; and Allegheny County, PA) said that a methodology or formula was used to calculate current basic rates. It should be noted that Kentucky; Maine; Rhode Island; and Teller County, Colorado, said they had a methodology but did not in fact provide a methodology—i.e., information on the calculations or formulas that led to their rates.

Twelve jurisdictions (CA; DE; FL; MT; NC; ND; NH; OH; SC; SD; Denver County, CO; and Clark County, NV) said they did not have a methodology; and three jurisdictions (ID; WA; and Forest County, PA) did not respond to the question. Washington State provided information on its methodology in response to other survey questions.

Ten respondents were able to provide the year in which the jurisdiction’s methodology was implemented. As noted in Table B, six state/county agencies implemented their rate-setting methodology between 2000 and 2006. Four states reported methodologies developed or implemented between 1982 and 1997.

Table B
Year Methodology Implemented

State/County	Year Implemented
AK	1990
DE	2001
KY	2000
ME	2003
MN	1989
OK	1982
PA (Allegheny)	2001
RI	1997
TX	2001
WY	2006
n = 10	

Source: Survey Question 5

The survey asked respondents to describe, in as much detail as possible, the methodology or process used to determine components included in the basic foster care rate and how costs for the components are estimated.

Seven of the 11 respondents who reported using a methodology to set basic foster care rates provided some information on their process, in varying levels of detail. As noted above, in some cases, jurisdictions said they had a methodology but did not, in fact, provide a methodology (i.e., information on the calculations or formulas that led to their rates). Four respondents (KY; ME; RI; and Teller County, CO) indicated that they had a methodology but did not provide information about it.

As shown in Table C, five states (CT, MN, OK, TX, and WY) reported using USDA cost estimates to develop their foster care rates. Web research to supplement this survey for states that did not respond indicated that two additional states (Iowa and Michigan) also base their foster care rates on the USDA estimates. Alaska reported using U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guidelines. Two jurisdictions (RI and Allegheny County, PA) reported that they use a level of care model, which seems to reflect the difference between basic and therapeutic rates, rather than explaining calculations to arrive at a basic rate.

Of the 26 respondents to the survey, 15 (57.7%) (CA; DE; FL; MT; NC; ND; NH; OH; SC; SD; ID; WA; Denver County, CO; Clark County, NV; and Forest County, PA) indicated that either no specific methodology or formula was used to set current rates or they did not know if a methodology was used. However, 9 of the 15 respondents provided information on their state or county’s rate setting process in response to other survey questions but did not characterize it as part of a “rate setting methodology.” The information provided by these jurisdictions—DE; FL; NC; SC; SD; WA; Denver County, CO; Clark County, NV; and Forest County, PA—are also included in Table C.

Table C

Information Reported By Jurisdictions Regarding How They Set Their Foster Care Rates

State/ County	Method Start Date	Child Age Categories	Data Sources	Methodology	Comments
AK	1990	0 to 29 months; 30 months to 11 years; 12 years to 19 years	1993 U.S. Health and Human Service Poverty Guidelines for an Alaskan family of one	Current rates determined using the following components: 1993 U.S. Health and Human Service Poverty Guidelines for an Alaskan family of one, the age of the child and cost differentials by geographical areas of the state as determined by the state To determine costs, a combination of resources was utilized. Pie charts from a survey/study on foster parents' expenditures from another state's Child Welfare Program and feedback from Office of Children's Services regional management were used.	The year 1993 for the U.S. Health and Human Service Poverty Guidelines for an Alaskan family of one was chosen through legislative appropriation in 1998 and has not been increased since it went into effect on 7/1/1998.
CO (Denver)	Surveys and compilations done in 2001		Foster parent surveys, compilation of statistics and measures for metropolitan counties in Colorado		
CT	N/A	0 to 5, 6 to 11 and 12 to 18 (23 if they remain in school)	<i>The USDA Estimated Annual Family Expenditures on a Child, Urban</i>	The USDA report reflects annual amounts. Connecticut converts the	Rates are set every two years. An increase in the rates is requested every

State/ County	Method Start Date	Child Age Categories	Data Sources	Methodology	Comments
			<i>Northeast</i>	annual amount into a per diem rate. Health care costs are not included in the rate.	two years as part of the department's budget cycle. Legislature approval is required before an increase can be granted.
DE	1/2001		Information on basic rates in other states in region	Basic rates were set that were comparable to other states in the region several years ago.	
FL					In years past, the Florida Department of Children and Families completed surveys and rate studies. This information is not, however, used as a guideline for the legislature to appropriate funds. The General Appropriations Act establishes a lump sum to be used.
MN	1/1/89		<i>USDA Expenditures on Children by Families Annual Report</i>	MN calculates the percentage of the increase of the last year's figures by using an average of the percentage increase for each income level.	Rate adjusted annually
NV (Clark)					Basic rates are set at the legislative level.

State/ County	Method Start Date	Child Age Categories	Data Sources	Methodology	Comments
NC			The General Assembly requests information to compare NC foster care rates to other states.		Foster Care Rates are set by the General Assembly. Members of the General Assembly who are also foster parents play a significant role in recognizing that the costs exceed the reimbursement rate.
OK	1982		USDA Standards and comparable rates from states in region (Urban South) Health care costs not included in rate		Annual request to state legislature for rate increase made by department.
PA (Allegheny)	2001		Agency uses a consultation process between agency and foster care providers to determine cost of ensuring basic needs of children and provider agencies.		The rates were initially established based on prevailing private agency reimbursement rates at the time. The rates were increased on a level system to allow for children with needs above and beyond the norm.
PA (Forest)					Rates were established a few years ago by the Human Services Advisory Board.
SC			USDA cost of raising a child in the South		
SD			USDA report on the average costs for a family		Base rates established a number of years ago.

State/ County	Method Start Date	Child Age Categories	Data Sources	Methodology	Comments
TX	2003		USDA <i>Expenditures on Children by Families</i> and cost report data submitted by contracted providers	Rates established used a blending of cost data from the <i>USDA Expenditures on Children by Families</i> and cost report data submitted by contracted providers. This blending coincided with a change in the service level structure that collapsed two levels of care into one service level.	
WA	Work with contractor done in 2000		Research on practices in other states; developed and pilot tested an instrument that assesses children in foster care; developed cost projections and options for cost analysis; selected one option for implementation, conducted research on federal reimbursement practices under Title IV-E, and designed software to allow for an automated process.	The system uses a standardized assessment of children to determine the rate at which the foster parent will be reimbursed and to specify the obligations to which the foster parents have committed themselves in accepting their rate.	State worked with a contractor to develop a foster care rate structure.
WY	7/1/2006	0 to 5 years; 6 to 12 years; 13 to 18 years	The <i>USDA Estimated Annual Expenditures on Children by Families</i> was used to determine cost components.	Totals for ages 0 to 2 and 3 to 5 were added together, divided by 2, and then divided by 12 to arrive at monthly rate. (Same process was	

State/ County	Method Start Date	Child Age Categories	Data Sources	Methodology	Comments
			The <i>USDA Estimated Annual Expenditures on a Child by Husband-Wife Families, Urban West, 2003</i> Before tax income: less than \$41,200 was used to estimate costs.	used for older groups: totals for 6 to 8 and 9 to 11; totals for 12 to 14 and 15 to 17)	

Source: Survey Questions 7, 17, and 18

Seven of 26 survey respondents (FL; MT; NC; NH; OK; SD; and Clark County, NV) indicated that their basic foster care rates were initially set by their state legislatures. Rate increases or other changes in the basic rates are also made by these legislatures.

Basic Foster Care Maintenance Rates—What is Covered?

The survey asked respondents if they knew what items and services were included in their basic rate and what percentage of the basic rate was allocated to each of these items or services. Survey respondents were asked to provide the percentage of the total rate that is allocated for each item or service included in the basic foster care rate for a child aged 2, 9 and 16. Only seven respondents provided this information.

Denver County, CO commented that its agency does not train or monitor foster parents regarding the amounts to be spent on various items, but provides IV-E guidelines on a base amount that should be expended on shelter and food, supervision, school supplies and personal incidentals. Minnesota mentioned that some of its counties had developed policies that allocate portions of the reimbursement rate to itemized categories, but these policies have not been adopted statewide.

Table D illustrates how the seven respondents allocate specific items and services included in their basic foster care rate for a child age 2. (The percentages allocated for items and services included in the basic monthly rate for children 9 and 16 did not vary significantly from the percentage allocations for children age 2. Slight increases or decreases were reported, as expected, in the areas of clothing, school supplies and personal care items).

Table D

For Children Age 2, Percent of Total Foster Care Rate Allocated to Particular Expenditures

Basic Foster Care Rate for Age 2	% Housing	% Food	% Clothing	% Daily Supervision	% Transportation	% Health Care	% Child Care	% Personal Items	% Recreation	% Monthly Allowance	% Other	Items Included in "Other" (Q10) Category
AK \$653	7	35	10	7	6	5	4	7	17	2		
FL* \$369			8							2	1	Incidentals
NV (Clark) \$592	50	39	6							2	3	School supplies
RI \$438	25	25		25		25**						
SD \$451	85		9								6	Incidentals
WA \$370	75 (inc. food)		11					14				
WY \$400	42	14	4		11	6	13				10	Personal care items, entertainment and reading materials

* Florida expects foster parents to spend approximately 8% of their monthly maintenance rate on clothing and 3% on monthly allowance and incidentals for a 2-year-old child. Percentages were not provided for other items and services.

**Rhode Island reported allocating 25% of its basic rate for health care expenses for a child age 2. For a child age 9, 25% of the rate is allocated for child care, not health care. For a 16 year old, 25% of the rate is allocated for personal items and not health care.

Source: Survey Questions 9 and 10

At first look it appears that there is quite a bit of variation among the seven respondents. But when the housing and food categories are combined, the percentages allocated for both room and board are somewhat comparable and in the range of 42% to 56% for four of the respondents. Two respondents reported that between 75% and 85% of their monthly reimbursement rates cover the basic costs of raising a child in foster care i.e. housing, food, daily supervision, etc. The remaining 15% to 25% of the monthly rate covers clothing, personal items and incidentals. It should be noted that six of the seven respondents did not include a percentage allocation for each cost component.

Nineteen respondents (CA; CT; DE; ID; KY; ME; MN; MT; NC; ND; NH; OH; OK; SC; TX; Denver and Teller Counties, CO; and Allegheny and Forest Counties, PA) said that they didn't know what percentage of their total basic foster care rate is allocated for each item and service included in their basic foster care rates.

Data Sources Used to Estimate Costs

As shown in Tables E and F, seven of nine respondents (AK; CT; OK; RI; TX; WY; and Denver County, CO) provided data sources and estimated year for data sources for most items and services included in their basic family foster care rate. Two respondents (CA and FL) were able to provide a data source for one item—monthly allowance—included in their basic reimbursement rate. They did not provide information on when the estimate for monthly allowance was made.

Three (CT, OK, and WY) respondents reported using the USDA’s report on expenditures on children by families to estimate costs for housing, food and clothing. Other types of data used by respondents to estimate the costs of services and items included in their foster care rates included feedback received from local or regional offices, foster care expenditure studies conducted in other states, and foster parent surveys. Texas reported using a blending of USDA cost estimates and cost report data from providers.

Minnesota, South Carolina, and South Dakota mentioned using USDA data to estimate the cost of providing foster care but did not provide the specific information asked for in Question 15 of the survey.

Table E
Jurisdictions Using Particular Data Sources to Estimate Costs

	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	U.S. Dept. of Labor	Census	State/Local COLA	Other	Data Source Unknown	Total # of Respondents
Housing	CT, OK, WY			RI	AK, TX, CO (Denver)		7
Food	CT, OK, WY			RI	AK, TX, CO (Denver)		7
Clothing	CT, OK, WY			RI, CO (Denver)	AK, TX		7
Daily Supervision	CT, OK			RI	AK, TX		5
Transportation	CT, OK			RI, CO (Denver)	AK, TX		6
Health Care	WY			CT, RI	AK, OK, TX, CO (Denver)		7
Child Care	CT, WY			OK, RI	AK, TX, CO (Denver)		7
Personal Items	CT, OK			RI	AK, TX, CO (Denver)		6
Recreation	CT, OK			RI, CO (Denver)	AK, TX		6
Monthly Allowance	CT, OK	CA, FL			AK, RI, TX		7
n = 9							

State/county respondents: AK; CA; CT; FL; OK; RI; TX; WY; and Denver County, CO

Source: Survey Question 15

Seven respondents provided information on the year of the data from which the cost estimates were made for at least some cost categories. Oklahoma used cost estimates made in 2006 to estimate all of the costs of raising a foster child. Connecticut and Wyoming used estimates made between 2003 and 2004. Alaska, Rhode Island, and Texas used estimates made between 1998 and 2004. Denver County, Colorado, used 2005 cost estimate for clothing and transportation and estimates made between 1998 and 2002 for other items and services.

Table F
Data Source—Year of Estimate Used

	2006	2005	2004–2003	2002–1998	Other Year	Year of Estimate Unknown	Number of Respondents
Housing	OK		CT, WY	AK, RI, TX		CO (Denver)	7
Food	OK		CT, WY	AK, RI, TX		CO (Denver)	7
Clothing	OK	CO (Denver)	CT, WY	AK, RI, TX			7
Daily Supervision	OK		CT	AK, RI, TX			5
Transportation	OK	CO (Denver)	CT	AK, RI, TX			6
Health Care	CT, OK		WY	AK, RI, CO (Denver)			6
Child Care	OK		CT, WY	AK, RI, TX, CO (Denver)			7
Personal Items	OK		CT	AK, RI, TX, CO (Denver)			6
Recreation	OK		CT	AK, RI, TX		CO (Denver)	6
Monthly Allowance	OK		CT	AK, RI, TX		CA, FL	7

State/county responses from: AK; CT; OK; RI; TX; and WY; and Denver County, CO

Source: Survey Question 15

Non-Agency Input Used to Inform the Rate-Setting Process

Survey participants were asked about the types of input they sought and/or received that informed the rate-setting process currently being used, from outside the child welfare or other rate-setting agency.

All 26 survey participants provided information for this question. Some participants indicated that they used more than one type of input from outside the rate-setting agency.

As shown in Table G, three respondents (AK; WA; and Denver County, CO) said that expert opinion was either sought or received to inform their rate-setting process. Six respondents (AK; DE; ME; WA; Denver County, CO; and Allegheny County, PA) reported that the expert opinion was provided by expert members of a special panel or task force established to study the rate-setting process and make recommendations.

While no respondent reported conducting a foster parent or foster care caseworker survey, three respondents (AK, RI, and WA) said that they conducted foster parent/caseworker focus groups to inform their basic foster care rate setting process.

Seven survey participants (AK; DE; ME; OK; RI; WA; and Denver County, CO) reported using other states' rate setting methodologies to inform their own rate-setting process. Another seven state agencies (CT, MT, ND, NH, OH, SD, and WY) said that they did not use input from outside their agency to inform the rate-setting process

Other types of input received included recommendations from a citizens' review panel and the hiring of consultants to develop a rate structure.

Table G
Types of Input from Outside Rate-Setting Agency

	Expert Opinion	Foster Parent/Caseworker Survey	Foster Parent/Caseworker Focus Group	Panel or Task Force	Methodology Used in other State	Other	No Outside Input
Number of State/County Respondents (n=26)	3	0	3	6	7	8	7

State/County responses from: AK; CA; CT; DE; FL; ID; KY; ME; MN; MT; NC; ND; NH; OH; OK; RI; SC; SD; TX; WA; WY; Denver County, CO; Teller County, CO; Clark County, NV; Allegheny County, PA; and Forest County, PA.

Source: Survey Question 18

Changes to Foster Care Rates Within Past Five Years

In order to get a sense of the extent of rate changes that have taken place over the past five years, the survey asked respondents if their current basic family foster care rates increased, decreased, or stayed the same as the rates that were in effect on October 1, 2001. Table H shows that 21 of 26 states/counties provided some information on rate changes over the past five years. Sixteen of the 21 respondents reported that their basic

foster care rates had increased over the last five years. Five states/counties (KY; ME; OK; Teller County, CO; and Forest County, PA) did not respond to this question.

Five respondents (AK, CA, DE, OH, and SC) reported that their current rates have not changed in the last five years, although Delaware reported a rate increase as of January 2001. Alaska reported that its last increase occurred in 1998 as a result of legislative action to adopt the 1993 U.S. Poverty Guidelines.

Table H
Basic Rate Increased, Decreased, or Stayed the Same Over Last Five Years

	Rate Increase in Last Five Years	Rate Decrease in Last Five Years	Rate Stayed Same
Number of State/County Respondents (n = 21)	16	0	5

State/county responses: AK; CA; CT; DE; FL; ID; MN; MT; NC; ND; NH; OH; RI; SC; SD; TX; WA; WY; Denver County, CO; Clark County, NV; and Allegheny County, PA

Source: Survey Question 19

When asked about the reasons for changes in basic rates within the last five years, 10 respondents (CT, ID, MT, NC, ND, NH, RI, SD, WA, and WY) attributed an increase in rates to an agency request made during an annual budget process. Seven respondents (FL; MN; NC; OK; RI; WA; and Clark County, NV) reported an increase in rates as a result of their state legislature or county board response to child welfare advocacy groups. Four respondents (ME; TX; Denver County, CO; Allegheny County, PA) indicated that changes in their rates were for other reasons that included adjusting rates to match private providers, rate adjustment as a result of a state regulation requiring annual review of maintenance rates, legislature appropriation and service level adjustment and a 2005 cost of living allowance to assist provider agencies. Some respondents provided more than one reason for changes to their basic rates. This information is presented in Table I.

Table I
Reasons for Changes in Basic Rates
(Respondents could select more than one reason)

	Agency Request for Rate Change in Annual Budget Request	Legislature/County Board Response to Child Welfare Advocacy Groups	Other
Number of State/County Respondents (n = 18)	10	7	4

States/Counties included: CT; FL; ID; ME; MN; MT; NC; ND; NH; OK; RI; SD; TX; WA; WY; Denver County, CO; Clark County, NV; Allegheny County, PA

Source: Survey Question 21

Periodic Review of the Costs of Providing Basic Family Foster Care and Legislated COLAs

The survey asked participants if their agency had a policy in place requiring a periodic review of the current costs of raising a child in family foster care. Twenty-three jurisdictions answered this question. Of those, Minnesota, Texas, and Washington reported having an agency policy.

Minnesota state law requires the state agency conduct an annual review and revise the maintenance standard based on *USDA Estimates of the Cost of Raising a Child*, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Resources Service, Publication 1411 (October, 1982).

Texas reported that foster care rates are determined every two years as part of their legislative appropriations process.

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania reported that while all rates are reviewed prior to each private agency contract year, there is no official policy requiring the review.

Seventeen survey participants (AK; CA; DE; FL; ID; ME; MT; NC; ND; NH; OH; OK; RI; SC; SD; WY; and Clark County, NV) did not have an agency policy regarding periodic review of the costs of raising a child in foster care.

Survey participants were asked if their state legislatures or county boards require some kind of periodic review of the adequacy of foster care rates. Twenty-two jurisdictions responded to the question. Sixteen (AK, CA, DE, FL, ID, MN, MT, NC, NH, OK, SC, SD; TX; WY; Denver County, CO; and Allegheny County, PA) of the 22 respondents answered no. North Carolina mentioned that, for the last two years, their state legislature requested information on foster care rates for surrounding states.

Six respondents (CT; ME; ND; OH; RI; and Clark County, NV) said they did not know if their legislature or county board required a periodic review of basic foster care rates.

The survey also asked participants if automatic cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for basic foster care maintenance rates were legislated in their states or counties. None of the 22 agencies that answered this question reported having an automatic, legislated COLA.

Foster Parent Liability and Property Damage Insurance Reimbursement

The final two survey questions asked participants for information on whether foster parents are reimbursed for the costs of liability and property damage insurance coverage for providers of family foster care and if so, how they are reimbursed. The data collected are presented in Tables J and K.

Twenty-three survey participants provided information on the reimbursement of foster parent liability insurance. Nine respondents (ME; MN; MT; NH; OK; RI; SC; Clark County, NV; and Allegheny County, PA) reported that foster parent liability insurance premiums

were paid by the state or county agencies directly to an insurer. Three respondents (ND, OH, and TX) said that reimbursement for liability insurance was included in the basic rate. Seven respondents (CA; DE; ID; SD; WA; WY; and Denver County, CO) reported that they did not reimburse foster parents for liability insurance costs.

North Carolina reported that county agencies are responsible for any liability and Alaska reported that they indemnify and defend foster parents under specific circumstances.

Florida reported that the Division of Risk Management of the Department of Financial Services (s. 409.175, F.S.) will provide coverage through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to any person who operates a family foster home for DCF. The coverage provided under the Florida Casualty Insurance Risk Management Trust Fund is for general liability claims arising from the provision of family foster home care pursuant to an agreement with the department and based on guidelines established through policy, rule, or statute. This general liability coverage does not prevent foster parents from obtaining additional coverage for their own purposes.

Table J
Reimbursement for Foster Parent Liability Insurance

	Foster Parent Liability Insurance Not Reimbursed	Included in Basic Rate	Reimbursed Using Supplemental Funds	Paid Directly to Insurer by State or County Agency	Other
Number of Respondents (n=23)	7	3	0	9	4

Respondents include: AK; CA; DE; FL; ID; ME; MN; MT; NC; ND; NH; OH; OK; RI; SC; SD; TX; WA; WY; Denver County, CO; Clark County, NV; and Allegheny County, PA

Source: Survey Question 26

With regard to the reimbursement of property damage suffered as a result of providing family foster care, eight state and county agencies (ID; ME; NH; RI; SC; SD; Clark County, NV; and Allegheny County, PA) said that insurance costs are paid by the agency directly to the insurer. South Carolina also reported that only major property damage costs are covered by a private insurer, while the agency self insures for minor property damage up to \$500 per incident.

Ohio and Texas include foster parent property damage insurance costs in their basic rates. Alaska and Montana pay foster parent property damage claims using supplemental funds up to a specific dollar amount under limited circumstances.

Five states reported using some type of self insurance to reimburse foster parent property damage claims. In Connecticut and Florida, foster parents are required to file a claim directly with the state or the state’s institutional claims program.

In North Carolina, county agencies are responsible for any property damage. North Dakota has a secondary policy to cover property damage but this coverage is not automatically available and is based on limited criteria.

Washington reported that foster parents are reimbursed by the department for property damaged or destroyed subject to conditions and limitations. In situations where the damaged or destroyed property is covered and reimbursed under a foster parent’s insurance policy, the state will reimburse foster parents for the amount of the deductible associated with the insurance claim but to the limit of occurrence established by the state agency.

Six survey participants (CA, DE, MN, OK, WY, and Denver County, CO) reported that their state or county agency did not reimburse foster parents for property damage insurance costs.

Table K
Reimbursement for Foster Parent Property Damage Insurance

	Foster Parent Property Damage Insurance Not Reimbursed	Included in Basic Rate	Reimbursed Using Supplemental Funds	Paid Directly to Insurer by State or County Agency	Other
Number of Respondents (n = 23)	6	2	2	8	5

Respondents include: AK; CA; CT; DE; FL; ID; ME; MN; MT; NC; ND; NH; OH; OK; RI; SC; SD; TX; WA; WY; Denver County, CO; Clark County, NV; and Allegheny County, PA

Source: Survey Question 27

APPENDIX A

Foster Care Basic Monthly Maintenance Rates for Children Ages 2, 9, and 16, 2004

The basic monthly foster care payment rates shown here are the rates paid for regular family foster care. These rates differ from those paid for specialized family foster care. In order to differentiate between regular and specialized family foster care, CWLA asked states to provide data (beginning in 1997) based on the following definitions:

Regular Family Foster Care. Temporary care provided to children in state custody who must live apart from their families because of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or special circumstances necessitating out-of-home care in a family setting.

Specialized Family Foster Care. Temporary care for children in state custody which combines the benefits of protection, support, and nurturing in the family foster care setting and the benefits of treatment and/or other specialized services provided by specially trained, highly qualified, and intensively supervised and supported foster parents.

Payments cover different items from one state to the next, as indicated by the data types below. These data types must be taken into consideration in reviewing the rates.

State (Selected)	i Foster Care Basic Monthly Maintenance Payment Rates for Children Ages 2, 9 and 16			i Foster Care Basic Monthly Maintenance Payment Rates Include:		
	i Age 2 [†]	i Age 9 [†]	i Age 16 [†]	i Room and Board [†]	i Clothing	i Daily Supervision [†]
Alabama *	\$410	\$434	\$446	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alaska *	\$653	\$580	\$689	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arizona	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arkansas *	\$400	\$435	\$475	Yes	Yes	Yes
California *	\$425	\$494	\$597	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Connecticut *	\$701	\$717	\$788	Yes	Yes	Yes
Delaware *	\$391	\$391	\$504	Yes	Yes	Yes
District of Columbia *	\$827	\$827	\$899	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida *	\$354	\$364	\$436	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia *	\$383	\$405	\$428	Yes	Yes	Yes

Hawaii *	\$529	\$529	\$529	Yes	No	Yes
Idaho	\$274	\$300	\$431	Yes	No	Yes
Illinois	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indiana *	\$411	\$468	\$525	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kansas	\$568	\$568	\$568	Yes	No	Yes
Kentucky *	\$591	\$591	\$651	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana *	\$380	\$365	\$399	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maine *	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	No	Yes
Maryland	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Massachusetts *	\$520	\$546	\$565	Yes	No	Yes
Michigan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Minnesota *	\$524	\$524	\$630	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mississippi *	\$325	\$355	\$400	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missouri *	\$227	\$277	\$307	Yes	Yes	Yes
Montana *	\$450	\$450	\$542	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska *	\$222	\$292	\$352	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nevada	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Hampshire *	\$350	\$381	\$450	Yes	No	Yes
New Jersey *	\$420	\$453	\$526	Yes	No	Yes
New Mexico *	\$408	\$441	\$467	Yes	Yes	No
New York *	\$419	\$504	\$583	Yes	No	Yes
North Carolina *	\$390	\$440	\$490	Yes	No	Yes
North Dakota *	\$351	\$397	\$517	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oklahoma *	\$335	\$400	\$468	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oregon *	\$378	\$393	\$485	Yes	Yes	Yes

Pennsylvania *	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rhode Island	\$432	\$409	\$474	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Carolina	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Dakota *	\$415	\$415	\$498	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tennessee *	\$430	\$495	\$550	Yes	Yes	Yes
Texas *	\$608	\$608	\$608	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utah *	\$418	\$418	\$479	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vermont	\$517	\$571	\$630	Yes	Yes	Yes
Virginia *	\$312	\$365	\$463	Yes	Yes	Yes
Washington *	\$370	\$446	\$520	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Virginia *	\$600	\$600	\$600	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wisconsin *	\$302	\$329	\$391	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	\$400	\$400	\$400	Yes	Yes	Yes
n	40	40	40	42	42	42

State (Selected)	i Supplements to Basic Payments For Foster Care Include:															
	Child Care	Clothing	Daily Sup	Diff Care	Educ / Voc	Fst Pr Tra	Incid	Liab Ins	Mnt/Beh HI	Other	Pers Allow	Phys Hlth	Recreation	Respite	School Sup	Travel
Alabama *	x			x	x				x			x	x	x		x
Alaska *	x			x	x				x			x		x		x
Arizona																
Arkansas *	x	x	x	x	x		x				x		x	x	x	x
California *		x		x												
Colorado																
Connecticut *	x						x							x		
Delaware *	x	x		x					x	x		x	x	x		
District of Columbia *	x	x		x	x	x							x	x	x	
Florida *		x					x				x					
Georgia *	x	x		x	x	x						x		x		x

Hawaii *	x	x		x		x		x	x			x		x		x
Idaho	x	x		x	x				x			x	x	x	x	x
Illinois																
Indiana *	x	x			x	x	x	x								x
Iowa																
Kansas	x		x		x									x		x
Kentucky *				x					x			x				
Louisiana *	x			x	x	x			x			x	x	x	x	x
Maine *	x	x			x	x							x	x		x
Maryland																
Massachusetts *	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Michigan																
Minnesota *		x	x	x				x	x			x				x
Mississippi *																
Missouri *	x	x				x		x						x		x
Montana *	x	x				x			x					x		
Nebraska *	x	x		x		x				x				x		x
Nevada																
New Hampshire *	x	x		x												
New Jersey *	x	x		x		x			x			x	x	x		
New Mexico *	x	x	x	x	x									x	x	x
New York *	x	x			x				x			x	x	x	x	x
North Carolina *																
North Dakota *	x	x	x	x	x		x						x		x	x
Ohio																
Oklahoma *				x												
Oregon *		x	x	x			x				x		x	x	x	x
Pennsylvania *	x	x	x	x		x	x	x							x	x

Rhode Island	x	x	x	x	x	x			x			x				x
South Carolina																
South Dakota *	x	x			x	x								x		
Tennessee *																
Texas *		x	x	x		x	x	x			x		x		x	x
Utah *	x	x			x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Vermont	x		x	x		x								x		x
Virginia *	x	x		x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Washington *	x	x			x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x
West Virginia *		x				x			x			x	x	x		x
Wisconsin *	x	x	x	x	x		x							x	x	x
Wyoming	x		x	x		x								x	x	x
n																
Total	31	30	12	27	20	18	12	8	16	4	6	17	17	28	15	28

N/A = Not Available
(E) = Estimate

Created: 4/24/2007 5:00:29 PM (DB Ver. 4.0)

Data Type Key:

Child Care = Child Care; **Clothing** = Clothing; **Daily Sup** = Daily Supervision; **Diff Care** = Enhanced Payment for Difficulty of Care; **Educ / Voc** = Educational / Vocational Expenses; **Fst Pr Tra** = Training for Foster Parents; **Incid** = General Incidentals (e.g. hair care); **Liab Ins** = Liability Insurance; **Mnt/Beh HI** = Mental/Behavioral Health; **Other** = Other; **Pers Allow** = Personal Allowance; **Phys Hlth** = Physical Health; **Recreation** = Recreational Activities; **Respite** = Respite Care; **School Sup** = School Supplies; **Travel** = Travel to Child's Home for Visits, Medical Appointments, etc.



Related Internet Sites



Notes:

Most states and/or counties supplement these basic rates with additional payments. Types of supplemental payments are provided beginning with 1997 data.

Data for 1997 and 1998 provided more detail about what basic payments include, and are available in an archived table, which may be accessed by clicking on the table under "Related Information" at the bottom of this page.

Data have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The data provided in this table do not cover rates paid to institutions or for group foster care.

Alabama

- ▶ In Alabama, travel, respite care, child care, educational, physical health, and mental health expenses may be authorized based on an Individual Service Plan. This may be paid directly to the provider rather than the foster parent. Expenses for recreational activities are paid through the Foster Care Trust Fund.

Alaska

- ▶ In Alaska, rates vary slightly based on geographical differentials.
- ▶ In Alaska, in addition to room and board, clothing and daily supervision (24-hour care/oversight), the basic payment rate for regular family foster care includes personal items, school supplies, general recreation, general transportation and personal allowance.
- ▶ In Alaska, Liability Insurance is another item covered by supplemental payments. It is the policy of the SOA to indemnify and defend a foster parent for injuries occurring during the performance and within the scope of duty of the foster care program, but not for acts of intentional and willful misconduct. Ongoing direct costs are reviewed on a case-by case basis and are limited to reasonable payment, with regional office approval.

Arkansas

- ▶ In Arkansas, additional items covered by the basic payment rate for regular family foster care include: personal care items, school supplies and an allowance.

California

- ▶ In California, the basic payment rate also covers school supplies, personal incidentals, and travel to the child's home for visitation, and liability insurance.

Connecticut

- ▶ In Connecticut, the state will pay for up to 14 days annually of respite care without deduction in foster family stipend.
- ▶ In Connecticut, the state will pay most of the child care costs and the family pays up to \$25 per week.
- ▶ In Connecticut, the state pays for mileage and child care expenses for foster parents attending training.
- ▶ In Connecticut, flex funds could be used for educational/vocational expenses and recreational activities, but are not a standard supplemental payment. Flex funds are allocated on an approval basis.

Delaware

- ▶ In Delaware, the daily rate for basic foster care is \$13.04.
- ▶ In Delaware, the basic payment rate also provides an allowance for incidentals.
- ▶ In Delaware, some activities/services such as school pictures, class rings, and summer camp may be paid for occasionally.

District of Columbia

- ▶ In the District of Columbia, monthly rates are based on a 31-day month.
- ▶ In the District of Columbia, "Enhanced payments for difficulty" are negotiated into the regular rate on a case-by-case, as-needed basis. Additional clothing allowance is given as needed. Health related expenses are primarily for assessments. School costs beyond regular supplies (i.e. field trips) are covered.

Florida

- ▶ In Florida, other items covered by the basic payment rate includes an allowance for child and incidentals. An additional clothing voucher of \$200 is given once per year.

Georgia

- ▶ In Georgia, the daily per diem rate for children age 2 is \$12.75.
- ▶ In Georgia, the daily per diem rate for children age 9 is \$13.50.
- ▶ In Georgia, the daily per diem rate for children age 16 is \$14.25.
- ▶ In Georgia, an initial clothing allowance and annual allowance are also available.
- ▶ In Georgia, local offices may have funds to pay for such things as school supplies, recreational activities, etc. Physical and mental health may be covered by Medicaid (if eligible), State funds, or parents' insurance (if they have it).

Hawaii

- ▶ In Hawaii, the basic monthly rate also covers an age-appropriate allowance.

Indiana

- ▶ In Indiana, numbers are based on daily rates, multiplied by 365 and divided by 12 for monthly rate.
- ▶ In Indiana, there is some ability to ask for increased per diem based on child's needs.

Kentucky

- ▶ In Kentucky, these rates represent the basic rate for regular family foster care. Regular foster homes that are paid the "advanced" rate receive \$657 monthly for children ages birth to 11. For children ages 12+ the advanced rate is \$717 monthly. Regular foster homes are eligible for the advanced rate if they complete 24 hours of training in addition to pre-service.
- ▶ In Kentucky, regular family foster care also includes non medical transportation, respite care, routine baby sitting, children's allowances, school supplies, and incidentals.

Louisiana

- ▶ In Louisiana, additional items covered by the basic payment rate for regular family foster care include personal hygiene products and personal allowance for the child.

Maine

- ▶ In Maine, monthly rates for regular family foster care are determined by level of care rather than age. Level 1 receives \$500/month. Level 2 receives \$912/month.
- ▶ In Maine, daily foster care maintenance payment paid to foster parents covers cost of food, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, personal incidentals and reasonable travel for a child's visits with family.
- ▶ In Maine, enhanced payment for difficulty of care and mental/behavioral health expenses are covered by Medicaid.

Massachusetts

- ▶ In Massachusetts, rates were increased as of 7/1/04.
- ▶ In Massachusetts, a clothing allowance is paid quarterly at the following rates: 0 - 5 years old: \$107; 6 - 12 years old: \$181; 13 years or older: \$282.
- ▶ In Massachusetts, supplemental payments are on a case-by-case basis and can require documentation of need from a professional.
- ▶ In Massachusetts, additional items covered by the basic rate include birthday and holiday money for each child.

Minnesota

- ▶ In Minnesota, other items that may be covered by the basic payment rate include personal incidentals and reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation.
- ▶ In Minnesota, every placement is assessed a difficulty of care rate. An initial clothing allowance is available when a child enters foster care, the monthly maintenance provides for the child's ongoing

monthly needs. Minnesota offers liability insurance to every licensed foster parent, at no cost to the foster parent. Medical assistance offers supports for the medical and mental health needs, and may be used to help with the cost of transportation to medical appointments.

Mississippi

- ▶ In Mississippi, child's personal allowance is also covered in the regular foster care monthly payment.

Missouri

- ▶ In-service training allows foster parents to obtain additional payments for each child in care - \$100 per month, per child. Maintenance payment is to include most clothing costs, but an annual supplemental clothing payment of \$150 - \$250 is available to augment clothing expense.

Montana

- ▶ In Montana, some mental health services that are not covered by Medicaid may be paid for. This determination is made on a case-by-case basis. Also, some mental health services may be paid for in rural areas where there is no service provider accepting Medicaid.

Nebraska

- ▶ In Nebraska, the amount for children age 2 ranges from \$222 to \$1070. A foster care payment is a sliding scale based on the youth's identified behavioral, physical, and mental health needs.
- ▶ In Nebraska, the amount for children age 9 ranges from \$292 to \$1140. A foster care payment is a sliding scale based on the youth's identified behavioral, physical, and mental health needs.
- ▶ In Nebraska, the amount for children age 16 ranges from \$352 to \$1200. A foster care payment is a sliding scale based on the youth's identified behavioral, physical, and mental health needs.
- ▶ In Nebraska, the maintenance payment covers the usual costs of maintaining a youth, including but not limited to; board and room, personal needs including recreation and extra curricula activities; school needs including school supplies, school trips and graduation expenses; transportation up to 100 miles or \$21 in a month; clothing; allowance. In addition, the payment recognizes that foster parents provide care and supervision of the youth, which might include such functions as teaching independent living skills, assisting with homework, modeling appropriate parenting for the youth's legal parent, or supervising phone calls with a parent. Respite care and child care are paid for separately.
- ▶ In Nebraska, difficulty of care is figured into the monthly payment by the previously describe Foster Care Payment Determination check list. Physical/Mental/Behavioral health are covered by Nebraska Medicaid and paid directly to the health provider. If a youth does not have the minimal amount of clothing, a clothing voucher can be obtained. Travel exceeding 100 miles per month is reimbursed to the foster parents.

New Hampshire

- ▶ New Hampshire pays for the number of days a child is in foster care. Checks are run every two weeks (14 days) so the monthly calculations are based on 30.4 days in a month.
- ▶ In New Hampshire, the following items are covered but not paid to the foster parent directly as part of Board and Care: daily supervision, general incidentals, school supplies, liability insurance, travel for home visits, medical appointments, etc., respite care, child care, educational/vocational expenses, physical health, mental/behavioral health, personal allowance, recreational activities and training for foster parents.

New Jersey

- ▶ In New Jersey, a payment rate increase took effect on July 1, 2004. It will be reflected in Fiscal Year 2005.
- ▶ In New Jersey, these supplemental items are provided, but only clothing is provided through a cash payment.

New Mexico

- ▶ In New Mexico, graduation expenses, birthday, Christmas, extra clothes, mileage over 100 miles/monthly and extraordinary expenses related to education or vocational education may be paid as an incidental expense.

-
- ▶ In New Mexico, additional items covered through supplements to basic payments for regular foster care include: graduation expenses, birthday, Christmas, extra clothing needs, mileage over 100 miles/month and extraordinary expenses related to education or vocational education may be paid as an incidental expense.

New York

- ▶ New York provides a range of monthly payments that varies from New York City and adjacent counties to upstate New York. Children age 2 receive \$460 in metro NY and \$419 in upstate.
- ▶ New York provides a range of monthly payments that varies from New York City and adjacent counties to upstate New York. Children age 9 receive \$541 in metro NY and \$504 in upstate.
- ▶ New York provides a range of monthly payments that varies from New York City and adjacent counties to upstate New York. Children age 16 receive \$626 in metro NY and \$583 in upstate.
- ▶ New York defines Metro NY as New York City and adjacent counties and upstate New York as the rest of New York State.
- ▶ In New York, personal care, household furnishings and operations, educational materials, recreation, and normal transportation are also covered by the basic payment rate.

North Carolina

- ▶ North Carolina does not make supplemental payments, but the county departments of social services may make supplemental payments for certain categories of children.

North Dakota

- ▶ In North Dakota, other items covered by the basic payment rate are: food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, child's personnel incidentals, and liability insurance with respect to a child.

Oklahoma

- ▶ In Oklahoma, the basic payment rate also includes start up and emergency clothing vouchers. A portion of each month's reimbursement is to provide for general incidentals, school supplies, education/vocational expenses, personal allowances, and recreation activities. Liability insurance, physical, and dental health care are paid by OKDHS. Child Care is paid for foster parents employed 20 hours a week or more.

Oregon

- ▶ In Oregon, children in foster/relative care are provided with a medical card for physical and mental health needs. Supplemental payments are child-specific.

Pennsylvania

- ▶ In Pennsylvania, foster care maintenance rates are determined by the licensed foster care agencies and not the state so the rates vary by county.
- ▶ Due to Pennsylvania being a state-supervised, county-administered child welfare system, these items are allowable for federal reimbursement. The county child welfare agency may provide other items but the provision and payment for such services is at the individual discretion of the county.

South Dakota

- ▶ In South Dakota, the basic payment rate also includes incidentals such as hygiene items.

Tennessee

- ▶ In Tennessee, additional items covered by the basic payment rate for regular family visits may include: transportation to visits, child allowance, and child personal items. There is however an initial clothing allowance for each child upon entering state custody.
- ▶ In Tennessee, there are three different rates for foster homes: basic, special circumstances and negotiated. A child classified as one for whom care is difficult would be classified as a special circumstance or a negotiated rate. Travel to and from the doctor is paid through a source of funding. Clothing is included in the regular board payment, but an initial clothing allotment is purchased when a child first enters custody.

Texas

▶ In Texas, DFPS pays a second tiered service level of moderate care for children above the regular Foster Care service level. The 2004 monthly rate for that level of service is \$1065. This is a per diem payment, not a supplement.

Utah

▶ Effective July 1, 2003, Utah went to age-based daily rates as follows: Ages 0-11:\$13.70; ages 12-15: \$14.75; and ages 16 - older: \$15.75.

▶ In Utah, other items that may be covered include baby needs, Christmas, birthday, graduation gifts, lessons, etc.

Virginia

▶ In Virginia, the basic payment rate also covers personal care, recreation, and a monthly allowance.

Washington

▶ In Washington, additional reimbursement is available when foster parents provide additional supervision and support to children with higher/special needs.

West Virginia

▶ In West Virginia, placement clothing allowance, yearly school clothing allowance and other clothing needs are met by the regular payment.

Wisconsin

▶ In Wisconsin, children may receive a one-time clothing allowance.

▶ In Wisconsin, physical and dental health are provided through Medical Assistance.

Sources:

¹ The Child Welfare League of America. (2005). *State Child Welfare Agency Survey*. Washington, DC: Author. (Source Details...)

Related Information:

Specialized Foster Care Basic Monthly Maintenance Rates for Children Ages 2, 9 and 16

Data from the CWLA National Data Analysis System (<http://ndas.cwla.org>) must be viewed within the context of each state's laws, policies, practices and definitions.

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National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning *at the Hunter College School of Social Work*

Foster Care Maintenance Payments

Individuals often attempt to compare the reimbursement payments made to foster parents in various states. The Child Welfare League of America's (CWLA) National Data Analysis System (NDAS) is generally considered to be the best source of comprehensive data on state foster care reimbursement. Their most recent data available is for 2004, based on a survey conducted by the CWLA in 2005. Access it at <http://ndas.cwla.org/>. Select "Access the Data" under "Data & Statistics." Then select "Out of Home Care," "Out of Home Care Homes and Facilities," and select either "Foster Care Basic Monthly Maintenance Rates for Children Ages 2, 9 and 16" or "Specialized Foster Care Basic Monthly Maintenance Rates for Children Ages 2, 9 and 16." The NDAS site provides a table that allows the user to compare basic monthly rates, with notes concerning items that may be covered by supplemental payments.

Our experience has shown that, while comparison tables have some use, they may be misleading in some instances. Factors affecting the usefulness of strict dollar comparisons include:

- variation in cost of living in different areas;
- variation in payments between regions or counties within a state;
- supplemental payments that may be provided for a variety of expenditures; and
- variation in criteria used to determine different levels of care that receive higher reimbursements.

To provide a fuller picture of the rates being provided, we have prepared a table listing basic maintenance payments at various age levels. Amounts of additional payments are footnoted, when available; the absence of such payments does not mean they are not made. Rates for emergency shelter and specialized or treatment levels of care will be provided in a separate document.

Since many states use a daily rate, we have computed a monthly rate using the same formula as the NDAS data, (daily rate) x 365 divided by 12. All rates have been rounded to the nearest dollar. NDAS provides payments for children ages 2, 9, and 16. We have gathered information that is more current in some states, and show a variety of age ranges, as states use a different cut-off ages. Month and year in which rates became effective have been listed, where known.

Sources of information are shown on page 5.

For information on the cost of raising a child in different regions of the country, see the annual U.S. Department of Agriculture reports, Expenditures on Children by Families, available at <http://www.usda.gov/cnpp/using2.html>

Basic Foster Care Maintenance Payment

	Under age 1	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Ages 6-8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Ages 16+	Eff date
Alabama	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$423	\$423	\$423	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$446	\$446	\$446	\$446	4/02
Alaska ¹	\$653	\$653	\$653	\$580 ²	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$580	\$689	\$689	\$689	\$689	\$689	
Arizona ³	\$745	\$710	\$710	\$684	\$684	\$684	\$699	\$699	\$699	\$699	\$787	\$787	\$787	\$787	\$787	7/05
Arkansas	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$475	\$475	
California ⁴	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$462	\$462	\$494	\$494	\$494	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$597	\$597	7/01
Colorado ⁵	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$349	\$392	\$392	\$392	\$392	\$423	\$423	
Connecticut ⁶	\$726	\$726	\$726	\$726	\$726	\$726	\$739	\$739	\$739	\$739	\$807	\$807	\$807	\$807	\$807	7/05
Delaware	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	
D.C.	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$827	\$899	\$899	\$899	\$899	\$899	
Florida	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$429	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$515	\$515	\$515	\$515	7/06
Georgia	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$416	\$471	\$471	\$471	\$471	\$471	\$540	\$540	\$540	\$540	7/05
Hawaii	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	\$529	7/90
Idaho ⁷	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$274	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$431	\$431	\$431	\$431	7/04
Illinois ⁸	\$361	\$369	\$369	\$369	\$369	\$384	\$384	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	\$445	7/00

¹ Alaska's rate varies by geographic location; the state applies a multiplier of up to 1.42 times the listed rate. Each village is assigned a multiplier
Additional payment: Maximum \$300 initial clothing, based on documented need.

² The rate changes at age 31 months.

³ Additional payments may include maximum yearly amounts as follows: \$300 emergency clothing; \$165 books and school supplies; \$165 supplemental school fees in year-round schools; \$220 graduation expenses; \$45 holidays, birthdays; \$350 day camp or combined \$550 overnight camp and day camp, or family vacation

⁴ Rates at some age levels are slightly higher in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Clara, and Marin.

⁵ Additional: \$20 respite allowance; the 64 counties have the authority to negotiate rates above the anchor rates and most do.

⁶ Additional: initial clothing allowance \$300

⁷ Additional payments: Christmas gifts \$30; birthday gifts \$20; clothing and school fees "based upon the Department's determination of each child needs."

⁸ Additional payments: initial clothing voucher if the child's clothing is inadequate; transportation/mileage up to \$50 per month to support sibling visits; \$25 per hour, up to \$100, to supervise sibling visits

	Under age 1	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Ages 6-8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Ages 16+	Eff date
Indiana	Each county sets an individual scale; there is no State rate. Foster parents can negotiate with their county director															
Iowa ⁹	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$434	\$458	\$458	\$458	\$458	\$512	\$512	\$512	\$512	\$512	7/01
Kansas	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	\$568	
Kentucky ¹⁰	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$599	\$660	\$660	\$660	\$660	\$660	
Louisiana			\$380					\$365							\$399	
Maine ¹¹	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$502	
	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	\$913	
Maryland	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$635	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	07/06
Massachusetts	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$546	\$565	\$565	\$565	\$565	7/04
Michigan	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$433	\$535	\$535	\$535	\$535	
Minnesota ¹²	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$547	\$642	\$642	\$642	\$656	\$656	1/05
Mississippi			\$325					\$355							\$400	
Missouri ¹³	\$227	\$227	\$227	\$227	\$227	\$227	\$277	\$277	\$277	\$277	\$277	\$307	\$307	\$307	\$307	
Montana			\$450					\$450							\$542	
Nebraska			\$222					\$292							\$352	
Nevada			\$592					\$592							\$682	
New Hampshire ¹⁴			\$373					\$406							\$479	
New Jersey	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$489	\$489	\$510	\$510	\$510	\$564	\$564	\$564	\$564	1/05

⁹ Additional payments: \$1 per day per child when a sibling group of 3 or more is placed in the same home; \$250 initial clothing allowance; \$200 replacement clothing per year; \$50 per year school fees.

¹⁰ Additional payments: initial clothing allowance may be authorized up to \$100 ages 0-1; \$120 ages 1-2; \$130 ages 3-4; \$180 ages 5-11; \$290 ages 12+; annual school clothing allowance \$50 ages 3-10; \$100 ages 11+; graduation expenses up to \$500; Christmas gifts \$60; \$25 birthday gifts;

¹¹ Maine has two regular foster care maintenance rates, for children with "minimal" needs (\$16.50/day) and children with "mild" needs (\$30/day). Additional: initial clothing allowance: \$365 ages 0-11; \$618 ages 12-14; \$698 ages 15-18.

¹² Additional payment: initial clothing allowance \$365 ages 0-11; \$618 ages 12-14; \$698 ages 15-18

¹³ Additional payments: infant allowance, \$50 ages 0-2; annual clothing allowance: \$150 ages 0-5; \$200 ages 6-12; \$250 ages 13+

¹⁴ Additional payments: Clothing at \$25 a month (paid at .75 a day) and special occasion allowances for Holiday, Back to School and Birthday paid 3 times a year - \$50 ages 0-5; \$58 ages 6-10; \$67 ages 11-13; \$100 ages 14-18.

	Under age 1	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Ages 6-8	Age 9	Age 10	Age 11	Age 12	Age 13	Age 14	Age 15	Ages 16+	Eff date
New Mexico			\$408					\$441							\$467	
New York ¹⁵	Each of 58 local districts is allowed to set its own rates. The state only determines the maximum amounts it will reimburse to the local districts; there is no minimum															
North Carolina	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$440	\$490	\$490	\$490	\$490	
North Dakota			\$351					\$397							\$517	
Ohio ¹⁶	Each county sets its own minimum and maximum per diem rates, which range from \$9.00 to \$118.00.															
Oklahoma ¹⁷	\$335	\$335	\$335	\$335	\$335	\$335	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$468	\$468	\$468	\$468	8/04
Oregon	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$387	\$402	\$402	\$402	\$402	\$402	\$497	\$497	\$497	\$497	04/06
Pennsylvania	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Rhode Island	\$438	\$438	\$438	\$438	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$480	
South Carolina			\$312					\$339							\$415	
South Dakota	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$415	\$498	\$498	\$498	\$498	7/03
Tennessee ¹⁸	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$575	\$663	\$663	\$663	\$663	\$663	8/06
Texas	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	9/05
Utah	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$418	\$449	\$449	\$449	\$449	\$479	7/03
Vermont	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$517	\$571	\$571	\$571	\$571	\$571	\$630	\$630	\$630	\$630	
Virginia ¹⁹	\$326	\$326	\$326	\$326	\$326	\$381	\$381	\$381	\$381	\$381	\$381	\$483	\$483	\$483	\$483	
Washington			\$370					\$446							\$520	
West Virginia	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	7/03
Wisconsin	\$302	\$302	\$302	\$302	\$302	\$329	\$329	\$329	\$329	\$329	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$391	\$391	1/01
Wyoming			\$400					\$400							\$400	

¹⁵ Additional payment: annual clothing replacement allowance \$304 ages 0-5; \$425 ages 6-11; \$659 ages 12-15; \$806 ages 16+; diaper allowance \$47 per month, ages 0-3. In addition, at first placement, the adequacy of the child's clothing is reviewed, and a clothing allowance may be issued.

¹⁶ See Source list for individual county rates.

¹⁷ Additional payment: initial clothing allowance \$100 ages 0-5; \$150 ages 6-12; \$200 ages 13+

¹⁸ If the child's clothing is not adequate, additional amounts: \$125 ages 0-2; \$175 ages 3-4; \$155 ages 5-12; \$200 ages 13+

¹⁹ Additional payment: clothing allowance \$300 per year

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