



2672 FOSTER FAMILY HOME PAYMENTS	
Chapter: Fiscal Management	Section: Payments
 <p>New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual Policy Directive: 19-12 Effective Date: March 2019 Scheduled Review Date:</p>	<p>Approved:</p>  Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr., DCYF Director
Related Statute(s): RSA 170-E , and RSA 170-G Related Admin Rule(s): He-C 6347 , He-C 6423 , and He-C 6446 Related Federal Regulation(s): 45 CFR 1356.21(m)(2) , and SSA 471(a)(11)	Related Form(s): Bridges' Screen(s) and Attachment(s):

All children and youth belong with family. When children must be temporarily placed away from their families, DCYF will provide a daily stipend to a licensed foster family home to offset the costs of caring for the child/youth in their home and for the work they do to support the child/youth's case plan. This stipend must be determined in a consistent manner and reasonable to support the permanency of children and youth.

Purpose

To establish the structure and methodology for foster family home payments.

Definitions

"Adolescent Care" means that category of foster family care for the care of adolescents, ages 14-21 years with specialized needs, provided by foster parents that have been recruited, selected, and trained to serve this specialized population.

"Crisis Care" means that category of foster family care where an unplanned placement is made in a foster family home any time after 4:30 p.m. or before 8:00 a.m., during a weekend, or holiday, and services are provided to a child in care on a regular 24-hour a day basis for a period not to exceed 5 calendar days.

"DCYF" or the **"Division"** means the Department of Health and Human Services' Division for Children, Youth and Families.

"Emergency Care" means that category of foster family care where an unplanned placement is made in a foster family home and services are provided to a child/youth in care on a regular 24-hour a day basis for a period not to exceed 10 days.

"Foster Family Home" means a licensed resource home in which placement, care, and a family experience are provided for children/youth who cannot be safely cared for in their own home or by a relative.

"General Care" means that category of foster family care where shelter, supervision, and support services are provided.

"Respite Care" means that category of foster family care for substitute care provided by a person or agency which is licensed as a child care or child-placing agency and provides temporary

overnight relief of child care responsibilities for the parent or for the substitute care provider for children/youth in foster care programs.

"Specialized Care" means that category of foster family care in which shelter, supervision, and support services are provided to children/youth identified as needing specialized care by foster parents who have met the additional training and care requirements set forth in He-C 6446.04(c) and He-C 6446.23(j).

Policy

- I. Foster Family Home Payment Categories
 - A. The General Board and Care Rate is provided to foster parents who meet the foster family care licensing requirements for in He-C 6446.
 1. Based on the age of the child/youth, Bridges automatically assigns the correct General Board and Care Rate when a placement authorization is added for a child/youth entering general foster family care.
 2. Current rates may be accessed via the standard rate table on Bridges. See policy 2701 for more information on current foster family care rates.
 - B. The Specialized Board and Care rate is provided for trained foster parents who meet the Foster Family Care Licensing Requirements for Specialized Care when the rate is approved by a Field Administrator for children/youth who have behavioral problems or medical conditions or need specialized care.
 1. Based on the age of the child/youth, Bridges automatically assigns the correct Specialized Board and Care rate when a placement authorization is added for a child/youth entering specialized foster family care.
 2. Current rates may be accessed via the standard rate table on Bridges. See policy 2701 for more information on current foster family care rates.
 - C. The Adolescent Foster Family Care rate is provided for trained foster parents who meet the requirements of an Adolescent Foster Family Home per He-C 6347.07 who are caring for youth between the ages of 14-21 who have special needs and require Adolescent Foster Family Care.
 - D. The Emergency Board and Care Rate is provided to children/youth who are experiencing an unplanned placement.
 1. Emergency Care is provided when there is little information about the child/youth (no evaluation or assessment has been made) or a General, Specialized, or Residential Treatment provider is not available at the time of placement.
 2. Payment is limited to a maximum of 10-days per unplanned placement incident.
 - (a) If the child remains with the Emergency Care provider beyond the 10-day limit, the board and care rate must be changed to either the General or Specialized rate.

3. Current rates may be accessed via the standard rate table on Bridges.
- E. The Crisis Care Rate is provided to children whose placements are arranged afterhours through DCYF staff or local police departments.
1. Payment is limited to five (5) working days per child/youth, for a maximum of eight (8) consecutive days.
 - (a) The child/youth must be moved to a new placement at the end of the crisis care stay.
 2. Crisis Care is provided to children/youth when District Offices are closed.
- II. Foster Family Care Payment Process
- A. Payments for general or specialized foster family care are issued automatically without invoices through Bridges, for children/youth who have an open and supervisor approved placement authorization as follows:
1. For initial placements, the foster family care payment begins the first day the child/youth is actually placed in the home.
 2. When the child/youth transfers from one foster family home provider to another, the actual days the child/youth resides in the foster family home are reimbursed.
 - (a) The home that the child/youth leaves receives the foster family care payment for the entire period in which the child/youth was in the home, including the day the child/youth leaves.
 - (b) The new foster family home receives payment beginning with the day the child/youth arrives.
 - (c) Each foster family home receives payment for the transition day.
 3. Payments end on the day the child/youth leaves the home, when the "Placement Authorization" is closed.
 4. If a child/youth in care runs away from the foster family home, reimbursement to the foster parent will be made pursuant to policy 2671 Authorizations and Payments During Hospital Stays and Runaways.
- B. Invoices
1. For Emergency and Crisis Care, board and care invoices are issued to Emergency or Crisis Care provider to sign and return to DCYF to receive payments via Bridges.
 2. Respite Care is paid via a "Service Authorization" sent to the foster parent for signature.
 - (a) The "Service Authorization" is returned to DCYF-Provider Relations for payment processing.

C. Overpayments

1. If an overpayment is made to a foster parent because the child/youth in care left the foster family home, a subsequent payment will reflect an adjustment of the overpayment that was recouped.
2. If the foster parent discontinues providing foster family care, they are required to repay the overpayment. The repayment check may be made payable to Treasurer, State of NH and sent to DCYF-Provider Relations.

III. Foster Family Care Rate Development and Review Process

- A. The foster family care rates are reviewed periodically by DCYF, at least once every budget cycle.
 1. Foster family care rates are proposed based on a comparison with the USDA cost of living for the previous year and comparable rates for other states within the region.
 2. The proposed rates are presented to DCYF Administration for consideration and inclusion in the Division's budget requests.
- B. Foster family care rates are set through the NH Legislative process and are dependent on available funds.