

State of New Mexico

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

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January 25, 2021

Dear Resource Families,

I would like to thank you for your continued commitment to caring for children and youth in foster care. Your support and partnership are critical to providing for the safety and well-being of children and youth in care. In an effort of continued support and partnership, I am pleased to announce that we will be increasing our foster care rates beginning February 1, 2021.

The increase is in response to rising expenses associated with providing care and support to children and youth, in particular the on-going need to provide for clothing. In addition to the increased foster care rates, we have added fifty dollars per month to cover additional clothing needs of children and youth living in care. The \$600 per year clothing allowance will replace the clothing reimbursement process, which required submission of receipts and a wait for reimbursements. The last day CYFD will accept receipts for clothing or clothing vouchers will be April 16, 2021. (Please see comparison of old rates to new rates below.)

I want to take the opportunity to address the shift in culture regarding Resource Families from Foster Families. This is a shift that has taken place at the national level. Many of our consultant agencies have made the shift in language and as the attached letter from Jerry Milner The Associate Commissioner for Children's Bureau, states "words matter:"

<https://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewArticles&issueid=207&articleID=5340&keywords=resource%20families>. Our goal is to keep children safe, keep families together and prevent trauma. Children living in care does not mean they should move to adoption. We want our resource families to be a support to families not a substitute for families. We have emphasized the needed increase of support for our children to live with relatives, and we know many of you have questioned your value. Please know a high functioning child welfare system needs an array of services and options for our children. Resource families will always be a part of the array. You are valued, needed, appreciated and necessary. You always will be.

We will continue to provide a monthly COVID-19 supplemental payment for as long as the Stafford Act remains in place (currently guaranteed through June 30, 2021). We hope this change will provide added support and ease any past burden of submitting and waiting for clothing reimbursement. Please submit and questions you have to your region's payment email address.

2021 Resource Family Foster Care Maintenance Rates

Resource Family Homes Level I/Basic Rate (Non-Relative, Relative, and Fictive Kin Licensed Homes)

Age	Old Rate		New Rate	
	Daily	30 Day Month	Daily	30 Day Month
0-5 yrs	\$18.60	\$558	\$20.91	\$627.30
6-12 yrs	\$19.70	\$591	\$22.06	\$661.80
13-17 yrs	\$20.56	\$616.80	\$22.95	\$688.50

Specialized Resource Homes Level II (Non-Relative, Relative, and Fictive Kin Licensed Homes)

Age	Old Rate		New Rate	
	Daily	30 Day Month	Daily	30 Day Month
0-5 yrs	\$24.56	\$736.80	\$27.09	\$812.70
6-12 yrs	\$25.66	\$769.80	\$28.21	\$846.30
13-17 yrs	\$26.50	\$795	\$29.08	\$872.40

Treatment Foster Care (TFC) Homes Level II (Licensed TFC Homes)

Age	Old Rate		New Rate Plus \$50 Monthly Clothing Roll Up	
	Daily	30 Day Month	Daily	30 Day Month
0-5 yrs	\$19.23	\$576.90	\$21.86	\$655.80
6-12 yrs	\$20.20	\$606	\$22.55	\$676.50
13-17 yrs	\$20.70	\$621	\$23.08	\$692.40

Sincerely,



Annamarie Luna
Acting Director
Children, Youth and Families Department