

Information on Foster Parents Rates due to COVID-19 from New England Jurisdictions April 2020

State	Rate
Maine	<p>We are considering a supplemental support payment like Massachusetts. We announced today a supplemental support payment of \$100/month per child as measured by kids in the home on the 15th of the month for the April, May and June</p>
Massachusetts	<p>We announced today a supplemental support payment of \$100/month per child as measured by kids in the home on the 15th of the month for the April, May and June</p>
New Hampshire	<p>No rate increase has occurred and in the process of contemplating a decision.</p>
Rhode Island	<p>We used the agency's medical complex rate (\$65 per day) as our baseline and established an acute medical complex rate of \$90 for the first fourteen days and reduced the rate to \$70 per day for the next fourteen days – with discretion to extend beyond the 28 days based on medical need.</p>
Vermont	<p>Vermont increased its daily foster care rate by \$10 for each child in care for the month of March. This resulted in foster parents receiving a “bump” of up to \$300 per child (assuming they cared for the child the entire month of March) in their early April reimbursement. We applied the \$10 increase uniformly across all our foster care rates, including special case rates for children and youth with higher needs. We will likely apply this same increase to our April rates, though we are reassessing on a monthly basis. Our desire was to create good will with the foster parent community; stabilize placements as we moved into the first wave of the epidemic; and assist in covering the extra costs experienced by our foster parents due to the closure of schools.</p> <p>Also, we are implementing a flat \$75/day rate for 20 days for any foster parent who must care for, or is willing to care for, a COVID + (physician certified symptomatic or test certified) child or youth. Again, this is in hopes of ensuring placement stability and in acknowledgment of the considerable effort necessary to ensure isolation and care of a youth in this situation. To date, we have not needed to utilize this rate. We have forecast budgeted for 80 to 160 of these situations, though we are hoping that given Vermont's aggressive response to the epidemic we will not have too many of these.</p> <p>We are watching the numbers but are hopeful that the 6.2% FMAP rate increase instituted by the Children's Bureau will adequately cover costs. Our numbers are based on approximately 800 children and youth in family foster care. (this includes kinship care when the child or youth is in the custody of the state).</p> <p>Finally – it is also of note that we do provide subsidized childcare to foster parents that is not reflected in their standard rates.</p>