

**Foster Care Expenses****24-1-2****Policy**

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) shall ensure all needs are met for children in the care and custody of DCF.

Any extraordinary expenses shall be assessed for approval.

**Daycare  
Payments**

DCF and the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) ensure children in its care receive early childhood education. Three and/or four-year-olds shall be enrolled in a National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited program or Board of Education accredited pre-school program, if available in their geographic area.

Children under three shall receive childcare through a day care provider licensed by OEC or a person who is exempt from licensing by the OEC but is approved by DCF.

The following will be eligible for a minimum of a part time daycare benefit via Care4Kids:

- children ranging from infants through middle school age
- adolescent parents in DCF care for their children
- adoptive parents for up to one year post adoption with an approved subsidy addendum.

To apply for the Care4Kids benefit, the licensed caregiver shall complete the application prior to submission. The Parent Provider Agreement Form (PPA) shall be completed for each child by the licensed caregiver and daycare provider. Once the forms are completed, they shall be submitted to the DCF Foster Care Division (FCD) support worker.

**Licensed  
Caregiver  
Health  
Insurance**

Any caregivers licensed by DCF for six months or more shall be eligible to apply for group health and dental insurance for themselves and their dependents through the Office of the State Comptroller.

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**Foster Care Expenses****24-1-2****Licensed  
Caregiver  
Health  
Insurance,  
continued**

At the conclusion of the licensed caregiver assessment process, the FCD worker shall inform the licensed caregiver of the availability of health and dental insurance and provide written information explaining the eligibility requirements and how to apply.

Eligibility shall continue until such person is no longer licensed as a licensed caregiver in accordance with state statutes.

**Legal reference:** C.G.S. section 5-259(f)

**Foster Care  
Maintenance  
Payments/  
Special  
Circum-  
stance Rate  
Request**

Foster Care Maintenance Payments (FCMP) are established and approved by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and not considered income.

DCF, at its sole discretion and within available appropriations, may change the FCMP or pay for unexpected or exceptional circumstances which are not included in the FCMP or covered by Medicaid or contracted services.

These exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis and require approval by the DCF Bureau Chief of Child Welfare or designee and DCF Chief Fiscal Officer.

The exception may be reviewed as often as necessary based on the needs of the child and is subject to change. The licensed caregiver must submit to periodic reviews at least every six months for rate redetermination.

**Pre-  
Placement  
Visit**

A child in a congregate care setting may have an in-person meeting with a potential caregiver before placement with the caregiver is finalized. When a pre-placement meeting occurs, the caregiver may request reimbursement for visits (of at least three hours or more in duration). The reimbursement may be up to half of the FCMP per diem rate.

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**Foster Care Expenses****24-1-2****Pre-Placement Visit, continued**

DCF, at its sole discretion and within available appropriations, may reimburse the caregiver for mileage at the current federal rate for any child in care in the process of transitioning into or returning to a licensed caregiver's home when the visit is more than 50 miles round trip.

**Vacation**

Licensed caregivers are encouraged to include the child in care in all family activities, such as vacations. The caregiver may request funding for travel expenses in advance for approval. If approved, the caregiver shall provide travel documentation (i.e. plane tickets, hotel reservations, travel itinerary, etc.)

**Cross reference:** DCF Policy 2-2, Fiscal Services Division

**Medically Complex FCMP**

Medically Complex FCMP are established and approved by OPM and not considered income. Children who are certified as medically complex are reviewed every six months for redetermination and certified by the primary health care provider.

**Cross-reference:** DCF Policy 21-5-2, Certification of Child's Complex Medical Need

**Property Damages Reimbursement**

A licensed caregiver seeking payment for damages to the caregiver's property allegedly caused by a child entrusted to the caregiver by DCF, shall notify and provide a concise statement of the basis of the claim, including the date, time, place and circumstances of the alleged act or event.

DCF shall investigate the claim to determine if the allegation can be confirmed and the amount of the claim ascertained. The availability of insurance coverage for all or part of the claim shall be verified.

For verified claims under \$5,000, the Child Welfare Bureau Assistant Chief or designee, in consultation with the DCF Chief Fiscal Officer or designee, shall negotiate a final payment amount with the licensed caregiver.

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**Foster Care Expenses****24-1-2****Property  
Damages  
Reimburse-  
ment,**  
continued

For claims over \$5,000, or if the claim is unable to be confirmed, the Child Welfare Bureau Assistant Chief or designee, shall refer the foster parent to the State of Connecticut Office of the Claims Commission.

DCF staff shall not file a claim on behalf of a claimant or assist with the preparation of a claim. However, DCF staff will provide the claimant with a copy of this policy.

**Cross reference:** DCF Policy 2-2, Fiscal Services Division

**Legal reference:** C.G.S. section 4-141 et seq.

**Respite  
Care**

Respite care is support provided to foster families, at their request. It identifies an alternate licensed caregiver to provide care for a child placed in their care for a period of up to 14 days per calendar year.

The purpose is to schedule a reprieve without a disruption to the placement or to the licensed caregiver's FCMP. The days do not roll over from one year to the next and do not need to be utilized consecutively.

Licensed caregivers providing respite will be reimbursed at the established per diem rate.

A licensed caregiver providing day-to-day respite will be reimbursed at the established rate per child.

**Crisis  
Stabilization**

Crisis stabilization is a temporary measure providing a child with an alternate setting for up to 7 days. The service aims to stabilize the situation and provide support during critical moments.

A disruption conference shall be held and composed of a multi-disciplinary team to review and determine the level of care required to support the stability of the placement and establish a plan of care.

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**Foster Care Expenses****24-1-2****Dual Placement Plans**

If a child requires hospitalization or care at a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF), a determination must be made for a Dual Placement Plan (DPP) and must be approved by the regional clinical managers and office director or designee.

A DPP allows for payment of a licensed caregiver while a child in care receives a higher level of care outside of the home. FCMP per diem can be approved for 14 days and up to 30 days. After 30 days, the FCMP will be reduced.

**FCMP Post Adoption and Guardianship**

In general, FCMP at the time of adoption and guardianship finalization becomes the subsidy rate. Upon subsequent annual review, there may be a change in the rate based on change of circumstances in the needs of the child(ren). The subsidy unit does not have the authority to approve changes to the established rate pre or post adoption or pre or post guardianship.