Foster Care Rates

Number: 45-300.4
Date: 7/1/1987
Revision: 12/1/2007

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy statement is to provide Foster Care rates and level of authorization required for payment. Level of care authorizations and license information will be included in the Foster Care case record.

APPROVED

This policy was approved by Mike Ryan, Director of CFS, on 2/19/2010. *Signature on file.*

POLICY

GROUP HOMES

Rates for Group Homes are set by the State. Each Group Home must be licensed by the State and be approved at a Rate Classification Level (RCL). An annual comprehensive compilation of those rates is provided to each county on the State's website. A letter is written to each facility confirming the annual rate allowed. To issue a payment a Group Home must have a State approved program number, and the Group Home must be non-profit. The Computer Support Liaison (CSL) must verify license status and ensure the Group Home has a contract with the Social Services Agency (SSA). The Eligibility Technician (ET) must have a copy of the Group Home license in the case record for the payment to be made.
Out of state Group Homes must be on the state's approved list in order to claim federal or state funds. If the Group Home is for profit, only county funds can be utilized for the placement.
Rate changes are updated via the CalWIN Provider Table from information gathered and/or interfaced from the State Rates Bureau.

FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES (FFA)

County placement agencies use licensed private Foster Family Agencies (FFA's) for the placement of children who require more intensive care than a licensed Foster home. By statute, FFA's are organized and operated on a non-profit basis and are engaged in the following activities: recruiting, certifying, and training foster parents, providing professional support to foster parents, and finding homes or other temporary or permanent placements for children who require more intensive care.
The AFDC-FC rates for FFA's vary by age group. The rates are organized into five age groupings and are established according to two different rate structures. The two FFA rate structures are designed to accommodate services provided under the two program types: Treatment and Non-treatment programs.
The ET is to obtain the FFA license and LIC 229. It is the responsibility of the FFA to forward copies of its Rate Notification Letter to all agencies from which it receives payment.

LICENSED FOSTER HOMES

A licensed Foster Home is an eligible facility, which meets the requirements of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care (AFDC-FC) program and in which an eligible child may be placed.

- Rates are determined by the child's age
- Rates are automatically updated by CalWIN
- Orange County Foster Care Rates Effective January 1, 2008
- Schedule of Basic Rates Effective January 1, 2008

These rates are also applicable to eligible Relatives, Non-Relative Extended Family Members, Legal Guardians, and Non-Related Legal Guardians.

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REGIONAL CENTERS

Regional Centers are licensed Community Care Facilities (CCF) which provide 24 hour out-of-home non-medical care and supervision for dual agency children.

• This rate is based on the needs of the individual child and is not a facility rate set by the Regional Center.
• Department of Developmental Services Community Care Facility Rates Effective July 1, 2007.

COUNTY FUNDS

County Funds are allocated for placement costs when Title IV-E or State funds are unavailable.

• Examples of Placements needing County Funds:
• Placed with relative prior to home approval
• Unqualified Alien placed with relative prior to PRUCOL (Permanently Residing Under the Color of the Law)
• Special Needs child
• Profit Group Home
• Child does not meet school/age requirements
• County Funds Request

EMERGENCY SHELTER HOMES (ESH)

Rates for ESH are set by contract between specifically licensed homes and SSA. Per diem rates are paid for all placements less than a full calendar month.

• ESH rates are reimbursed with AFDC funds when a child is AFDC eligible. An Orange County contracted home located in another county is eligible to Orange County ESH rates, but the reimbursement from AFDC is at the host county rate.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Clothing allowances are determined by age of the child. In addition, Host/County/State rates are to be used (including FFA's)

• Initial
• Payment per rate charts
• Initial clothing allowance may be authorized for entering out of home placement
• Only one initial clothing allowance per dependency episode
• Extraordinary
• Payments per Rate Chart
• This payment can be authorized as many times as the child meets the criteria in policy H-0112 to replace lost, stolen, or damaged items
• Replacement
• Issued to each child receiving AFDC-FC funds that was in placement on July 1st
• Supplemental
• Completely State funded
• Paid ONLY if the State allocates funding

REFERENCES HYPERLINKS

Eligibility and Assistance Standards (EAS) Manual Section 45-300

REQUIRED FORMS HYPERLINKS

Form Name	Form Number
CalWIN Provider Request	F063-29-71
Foster Care Application	F063-28-307
Placement Information Change	F063-28-301
County Funds Request	F063-25-415

PROCEDURE

REQUIRED ACTION

The following actions must be completed when determining Foster Care rates for any placements.

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PROCEDURE FOR ADDING OR UPDATING PLACEMENT RATE

Group Home (GH)

• Eligibility Technician (ET) receives Placement Information Change (PIC) via Foster Care E-Mail account (FCE) or Foster Care Application (FCAPP).
• ET will use “Search for Provider” feature in CalWIN to locate Group Home.
• If provider is not found or information is incorrect the State Rate Notification letter is requested by ET.
• Once State Rate Notification letter has been received, ET will submit letter and a completed CalWIN Provider Request to Computer Support Liaison (CSL).
• CSL will verify or initiate to ensure there is contract between the GH provider and SSA.
• CSL will enter/update Group Home information into CalWIN and notify Foster Care staff once updates or changes have been made.
• Rate will be determined by amount entered into CalWIN.

Foster Family Agency (FFA)

• Eligibility Technician (ET) receives Placement Information Change (PIC) via Foster Care E-Mail account (FCE) or Foster Care Application (FCAPP).
• ET will use “Search for Provider” feature in CalWIN to locate FFA
• If provider is not found or information is incorrect license is requested by ET.

Note: The FFA License is needed and the LIC 229 certifying the foster family home.

• Once license has been received ET will submit license and a completed CalWIN Provider Request to CSL.
• CSL will verify or initiate to ensure there is contract between the FFA provider and SSA.
• CSL will enter/update FFA information into CalWIN and notify Foster Care staff once updates or changes have been made.
• CalWIN will automatically assign appropriate rate based on age.

Licensed Foster Home (FH)

• Eligibility Technician (ET) receives Placement Information Change (PIC) via Foster Care E-Mail account (FCE) or Foster Care Application (FCAPP).
• ET will use “Search for Provider” feature in CalWIN to locate FH.
• If provider is not found or information is incorrect, ET will obtain a copy of the foster care license or home approval and submit CalWIN Provider Request to CSL.
• CSL will enter/ update FH information into CalWIN and notify Foster Care staff once updates or changes have been made.
• CalWIN will automatically assign appropriate rate based on age
• If host county rate is to be used, ET must designate the Host County and complete the Host State Rate field in CalWIN.

This procedure is also applicable to eligible Relatives, Non-Relative Extended Family Members, Legal Guardians, and Non-Related Legal Guardians

Regional Center (RC)

• Eligibility Technician (ET) receives Placement Information Change (PIC) via Foster Care E-Mail account (FCE) or Foster Care Application (FCAPP).
• ET will use “Search for Provider” feature in CalWIN to locate RC provider.
• If provider is not found or information is incorrect ET will obtain letter from Regional Center and submit CalWIN Provider Request to CSL.
• CSL will enter/update RC provider information into CalWIN and notify Foster Care staff once updates or changes have been made.
• Rate is dependent on Level of Care selection in CalWIN Provider Table.

County Funds (CF)

• Eligibility Technician (ET) receives County Funds Request.
• ET must verify rates, signature and dates prior to payment.

Emergency Shelter Homes (ESH)

• Eligibility Technician (ET) receives Placement Information Change (PIC) via Foster Care E-Mail account (FCE) or Foster Care Application (FCAPP).
• ET will use “Search for Provider” feature in CalWIN to locate provider.
• CalWIN will automatically assign appropriate rate based on age.

PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING CLOTHING ALLOWANCES

Initial

• Intake Eligibility Technician (ET) receives Foster Care Application (FCAPP).
• ET can utilize FCAPP as authorization to make Initial Clothing payment.

Extraordinary

• Eligibility Technician (ET) receives request for clothing allowance via e-mail.
• Request must follow process below to validate Auto Signature criteria.
• E-mail must have been initiated by the Senior Social Worker and sent to the Senior Social Services Supervisor (SSSS).
• SSSS will forward request to ET.

Replacement: See Foster Care Policy H-0112

Supplemental

• Will receive notification from Foster Care Program Manager to issue clothing allowance once appropriate State approval is received.

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