



State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Chad Poppell  
Secretary

**DATE:** January 14, 2019

**TO:** Regional Managing Directors  
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

**THROUGH:** Chad Poppell, Secretary *[Signature]*

**FROM:** JoShonda Guerrier, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare *[Signature]*  
Rebecca Kapusta, Assistant Secretary for Operations *[Signature]*

**SUBJECT:** 2019 Foster Parent Cost of Living Allowance Increase

**PURPOSE:** This memo is to provide guidance to regions and Community-Based Care Lead Agencies (CBCs) regarding the statutorily required foster parent Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), effective January 1, 2019.

**BACKGROUND:** During the 2013 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed s. 409.145(4), Florida Statutes, which establishes base room and board rate payments to foster parents and requires foster parents to receive an annual cost of living increase equal to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, not seasonally adjusted, or successor reports, for the preceding December compared to the prior December as initially reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Effective January 1, 2019, the room and board rates to foster parents will be adjusted as follows:

Age Range	2018 Room and Board Rate	Room and Board Rate Effective January 1, 2019
Zero to Five (0 – 5)	\$457.95	\$466.65
Six to Twelve (6 – 12)	\$469.68	\$478.60
Thirteen to Twenty-one (13 – 21)	\$549.74	\$560.19

Section 65C-16.013(8), Florida Administrative Code, outlines that a CBC can negotiate a Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (MAS) up to 100% of the statewide foster care board rate. Based on the 2019 foster parent cost of living allowance increase, a CBC will now be able to approve MAS amounts up to the above mentioned updated statewide foster care board rates. Any rate over the 2019 statewide foster care board rates must be approved by the Department Regional Family Safety Program Office.

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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

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**ACTION NEEDED:** As of January 1, 2019, all foster parents previously receiving the 2018 rate of pay for room and board in the amounts of \$457.95, \$469.68, or \$549.74, for child(ren) in their care must be paid the increase in the table above as specified in s. 409.145(4), Florida Statutes.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Courtney Smith, Adoption & Child Permanency Manager, at [Courtney.Smith@myffamilies.com](mailto:Courtney.Smith@myffamilies.com) or (850) 717-4660.

cc: Kimberly McMurray, Chief Financial Officer  
Grainne O'Sullivan, Children Legal Services Statewide Director  
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Community-Based Care Lead Agency CFO's  
Sheriff's Offices conducting Child Protective Investigations