



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

**Jeb Bush
Governor**

**Lucy D. Hadi
Secretary**

DATE: July 27, 2006

TO: District/Region Administrators, Community-Based Care CEOs,
Sheriff's Offices Commanders

THROUGH: Greg Keller, Deputy Secretary for Operations *Greg Keller*
David Fairbanks, Director, Provider Relations *DF*

FROM: Beth Englander, Director, Office of Family Safety *Beth Englander*

RE: Increased foster family care board rates and impact on adoption
subsidy rates

The following provides information and guidance about rates for payments to foster and adoptive parents.

Monthly minimum published rates for family foster care

In fiscal year 2000-01, proviso language to the General Appropriations Act established a recommended rate structure. The provision language described the amounts as suggested rates for monthly board payments for foster family care. It further stated that these rates should be treated as the budgeted average and should not be considered as the required rate. The provision language also included a statement that exceptional circumstances may require paying an additional amount to obtain needed services.

The Legislature has appropriated additional funds for family foster care services. The increased funds are \$2 per day or \$60 per month for each age category of family foster care. The new monthly minimum published rates for each age group are as follows:

	0-5 years	6-12 years	13 years and older
FY 00-01 Rate	\$369	\$380	\$455
\$2 per day Increase	60	60	60
FY 06-07 New Rates	\$429	\$440	\$515

Medical foster care rate

The new rate for medical foster parent board reimbursement is \$504 per month. This figure includes the \$60 per month increase added to the previous minimum rate of \$444 per month.

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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

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Emergency shelter rates

Should a community-based care (CBC) agency decide to utilize shelter rates, the following are the new published daily minimum rates and include the \$2 per day increase from this year's appropriation:

Type of Shelter	Age of Child	Daily Rate
Family Shelter	0-11	\$13.74
Family Shelter	12+	\$14.86

Maintenance adoption subsidy rates

Florida Administrative Code 65C-16.013 (7) states that, "The initial determination of the monthly basic maintenance payment will be based on the department's published standard foster care board rates. This initial basic subsidy will be 80% of the standard foster care board rate at the time the payment determination is being made, or if the child is in medical foster care, 80% of the medical foster care board rate at the time the determination is made. It is important to remember that basic subsidy determination is based on standard board rates, not actual board rates that may have been paid for a particular child." Florida Administrative Code 65C-16.012 (9) further states that, "The provision of all adoption assistance is contingent upon the availability of state and federal funds." While funds were appropriated this legislative session for new adoptions, funds were not appropriated for increased subsidy rates. As such, it is the department's position that CBC agencies are not required to increase maintenance adoption subsidy payments to 80% of the new published board rate.

As a reminder, the Florida Administrative Code provides for "Supplemental Maintenance Payments" in F.A.C. 65C-16.013(8). The rule provides additional requirements for submission to the Secretary for approval.

For additional information, please contact Roy Hutcheson, Family Safety Program Office at 850-922-8779, Suncom 292-8779 or email, Roy_Hutcheson@dcf.state.fl.us.

cc: Melissa Jaacks, Assistant Secretary for Administration