



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

DATE: January 22, 2021

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

THROUGH: Patricia Babcock, Deputy Secretary [Signature]

FROM: Patricia Medlock, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare [Signature]
Robert Anderson, Assistant Secretary for Operations [Signature]

SUBJECT: 2021 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, 2021, for Level II-V foster parents. Level I foster parents, pursuant to s. 409.145 (3)(e), Florida Statutes (F.S.), are not eligible for the COLA increase outlined below.

BACKGROUND: During the 2013 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed s. 409.145(3), F.S., 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 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Effective January 1, 2021, the room and board rates for foster parents will be adjusted as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Age Range, 2020 Room and Board Rate, Room and Board Rate Effective January 1, 2021. Rows include Zero to Five (0-5), Six to Twelve (6-12), and Thirteen to Twenty-one (13-21).

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 2021 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

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care board rates. Any rate over the 2021 statewide foster care board rates must be approved by the department Regional Family Safety Program Office.

**ACTION NEEDED:** As of January 1, 2021, all Level II-V foster parents previously receiving a 2020 room and board rate in the amount of \$477.38, \$489.61, or \$573.07, for the child(ren) in their care must be paid the increase as specified in s. 409.145(3), F.S.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** For additional information, please contact Courtney Smith, Child Permanency & Well-being Manager, at [Courtney.Smith@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Courtney.Smith@myflfamilies.com) or (850) 717-4660.

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